

NEBRASKA

INSIDE CORNHUSKER SPORTS

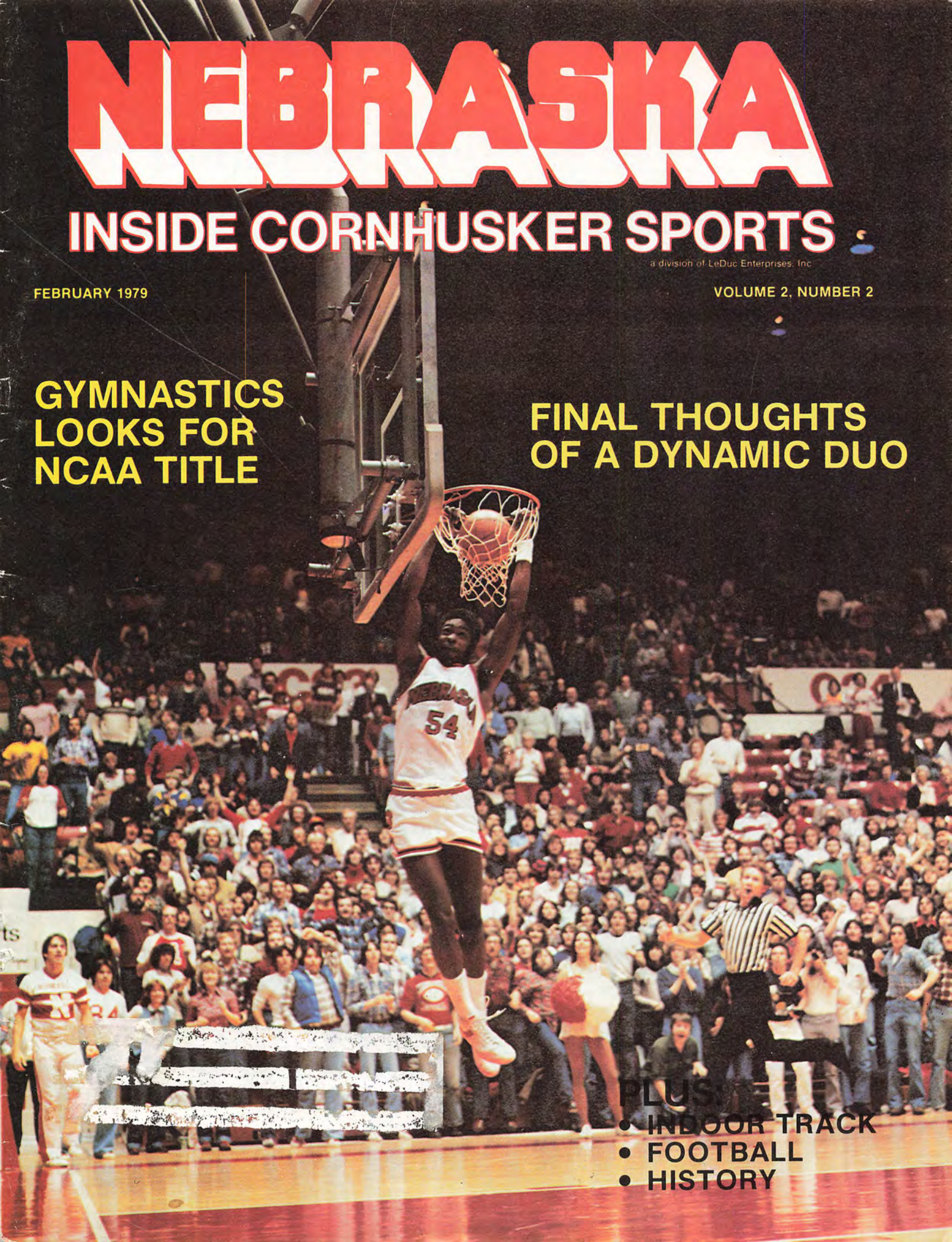
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FEBRUARY 1979

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

**GYMNASTICS
LOOKS FOR
NCAA TITLE**

**FINAL THOUGHTS
OF A DYNAMIC DUO**



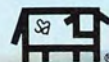
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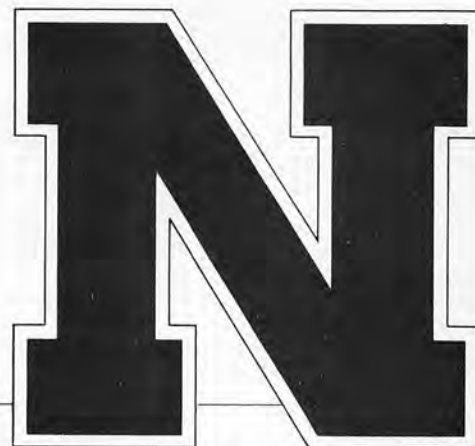
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Photo by Richard Voges

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NEBRASKA

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Friends:

As the month of March symbolizes the end of winter and the beginning of spring, it also signifies the close of the regular season and the beginning of the Big Eight and NCAA Championships for the Cornhusker winter sports teams.

The Big Red basketball and gymnastic squads have demonstrated the necessary capabilities to bring post-season honors to the University of Nebraska and deserve all of the support that we can give them.

NEBRASKA MAGAZINE will be right there during this exciting time to bring you closer to all the action. The Cornhuskers are dedicated to being the best and the most respected athletes in the country.

We at NEBRASKA MAGAZINE are also committed to being the best and providing you, the fans, with the most complete coverage of all the University of Nebraska athletic teams. It has been our pleasure to bring this publication to you. We will certainly strive to maintain the faith and confidence which you have exhibited in us.

Cordially,



Thomas R. LeDuc
Publisher

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We wish to thank the people at the Sports Information Department for their time and assistance, especially Don Bryant.

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Fielding Yost — The One Year Stop of a Meandering Mentor

by Thomas Horton

Six months before fire turned Chicago into the incendiary nightmare of 1871, Fielding Harris Yost was born in Fairview, West Virginia — the son of Elzena and Permeus Yost. Yost served as a deputy marshal while still in his teens as he helped local law officials control the rowdy mining towns of his home state. Fielding received a teaching certificate and then went to Ohio Normal College for two years before taking time off to work as an oil field laborer. At age 24 he entered the West Virginia Law School and played in the first football game that school every held.

Always an A student, Yost would ask for his fall assignments at the end of each spring term so he could get ahead during the summer and hence leave time for his first love in the fall — football. In fact, at one time he played for three teams at one time!

It was said of Yost that he could play football all day and talk all night on an array of subjects — football, war, business, politics. If he could find someone to sit and listen, then he was prepared to talk.

After coaching one year at Ohio Wesleyan in 1897, Yost moved to Nebraska in 1898.

Like a ritual enacted over and over again, fall in the 1890's was for the football player a time "to don his uniform and betake to the gridiron while the enthusiast of the game watches him in his daily practice." At least that is what *The Hesperian*, the weekly journal of the University of Nebraska, September 16, 1898, said in its preview to the football season. The newspaper went on to say of the new football coach Fielding Yost.

"The new coach, Mr. F.H. Yost, of Parkersburg, W. Va., arrived last Monday and has taken hold of affairs with a vigor and vim that promise to mark him as the best coach Nebraska has ever had.

Mr. Yost is an old foot ball player, and comes to the university with the highest



After one year at Ohio Wesleyan, Fielding Yost moved to Nebraska where he became the head football coach for one season and led the team to a 7-4 record. After his one year he moved on to Kansas.

recommendations as to his ability as a player and coach.

Last year Mr. Yost successfully coached the Ohio Wesleyan team, which won the state pennant that year. This team also played a tie game with Michigan State university, neither team scoring a point.

Mr. Yost uses his own style of game for the most part, and in certain points the Princeton style. He has kept abreast of the times, however, and is familiar with the styles of play of all the leading eastern universities and colleges. He also pays much attention to individual playing and teaches the players styles peculiar to their individual positions.

Coach Yost is a genial Christian gentleman and it is a remarkable fact that not a single oath has been heard upon the ball ground at Delaware during the practice of the entire season.

Not much is known about the first three games the Nebraska team played under Yost. Suffice it to say, however, that in the opener against Missouri, the team rolled to a 47-6 victory over the Tigers. Next, the Yost guided team overran the Kansas Jayhawks, 18-6. The fans were so fired up after this win that they started a fire behind the mechanical arts building on the Lincoln campus and burned an old car. The police had to be called in to settle down the ruckus, but they could do little to curb the overflowing enthusiasm of the spirited fans.

In their first home stand under the new head mentor, the Nebraskans thoroughly trounced Hastings 76-0. First right half Benedict raced for 60 yards, then 30 yards, then 20 yards — they moved the ball at will. Then left half Williams raced for 40 yards, 45 yards, and on one play burst through for 70 yards and a score. Every time a Nebraska player touched the elliptical pig-skin they tore through for huge chunks of yardage. It was early vintage of what has become known today as the BIG RED MACHINE.

As *The Hesperian* reported later, "It was a game full of temptations for the individual players to win the plaudits of the bleachers, but without exception, the team kept together and played as if their opponents were as powerful and wary as they."

The next Saturday, October 14, 1898, the team had a home game against Iowa State (known as Ames in those days) that was billed as a game of 'no child's play' because the Ames boys had soundly beaten the Lincoln gridders the year before, 10-0.

The newspaper ran a yell for the fans designed especially for the big rematch. It went as follows:

Mush and milk and sunflower seed,
That's the stuff on which we feed,
We're the hot stuff of creation,
We're the Nebraska aggregation!

So much for the yell. It did, however, in some way (maybe) help inspire the team to play tough football and win the game, 23-10. Benedict and Williams were again the leading ground-gainers for the Nebraska eleven.

The Hesperian, in describing the game, made the following comment on fan support of athletic events:

"It was a big day. It is hard to tell you about it. In fact, you don't deserve being told. You should have been there."

Fielding Yost was making quite a name for himself as he headed his team for a state pennant in football. His coaching and conditioning of men were very sound and, with three games remaining, this combination was responsible for a 7-1 season record. However, in the last three contests of the season, injuries started dictating first team roles and the loss of manpower and experience resulted in three defeats. They lost a heartbreaker to Drake, 6-5, another squeaker to Iowa, 6-5, and then in the season finale they were soundly defeated by

the K.C. Medics, 24-0.

The optimism and enthusiasm of the early season was tempered by the late season losses to what many felt were inferior teams. Nebraska had achieved only mild success during a fall that could have been one of the best in early Big Red football history.

Under coach Fielding Yost, the Nebraska team ended the season of 1898 with a 7-4-0 record. Not bad for a first-year coach.

Something wasn't right for Yost at Nebraska. He was treated royally by everyone involved in athletics and the college life. Yost, somewhat of a dreamer and avid talker, had his sights set on something higher than only he could decipher, that only he could recognize when he found it. His one year stint at Nebraska is mentioned only casually in the records and biographies of this famous coach. Destiny was to take him elsewhere. Fate would make him what many consider one of the greatest coaches of all time.

The next year he went to Kansas, after that he headed out to the coast where he coached Stanford to a 7-2 record. Any man who could take first year teams and turn them into winners had to have some unusual talents in teaching young men the

basics of football. Yost turned his eyes back east towards stiffer competition after one year at Stanford. He applied to coach at Illinois, found the job filled, and finally found his home in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan.

Getting off the train in Ann Arbor, Yost was greeted by athletic manager Charlie Baird. Baird was bubbling with excitement when he found out that Yost had coached five teams at one time while at Stanford.

Standing at the platform, Yost asked manager Baird, "How many students—men, y'know—y'got 'ere?"

"Oh, around two thousand."

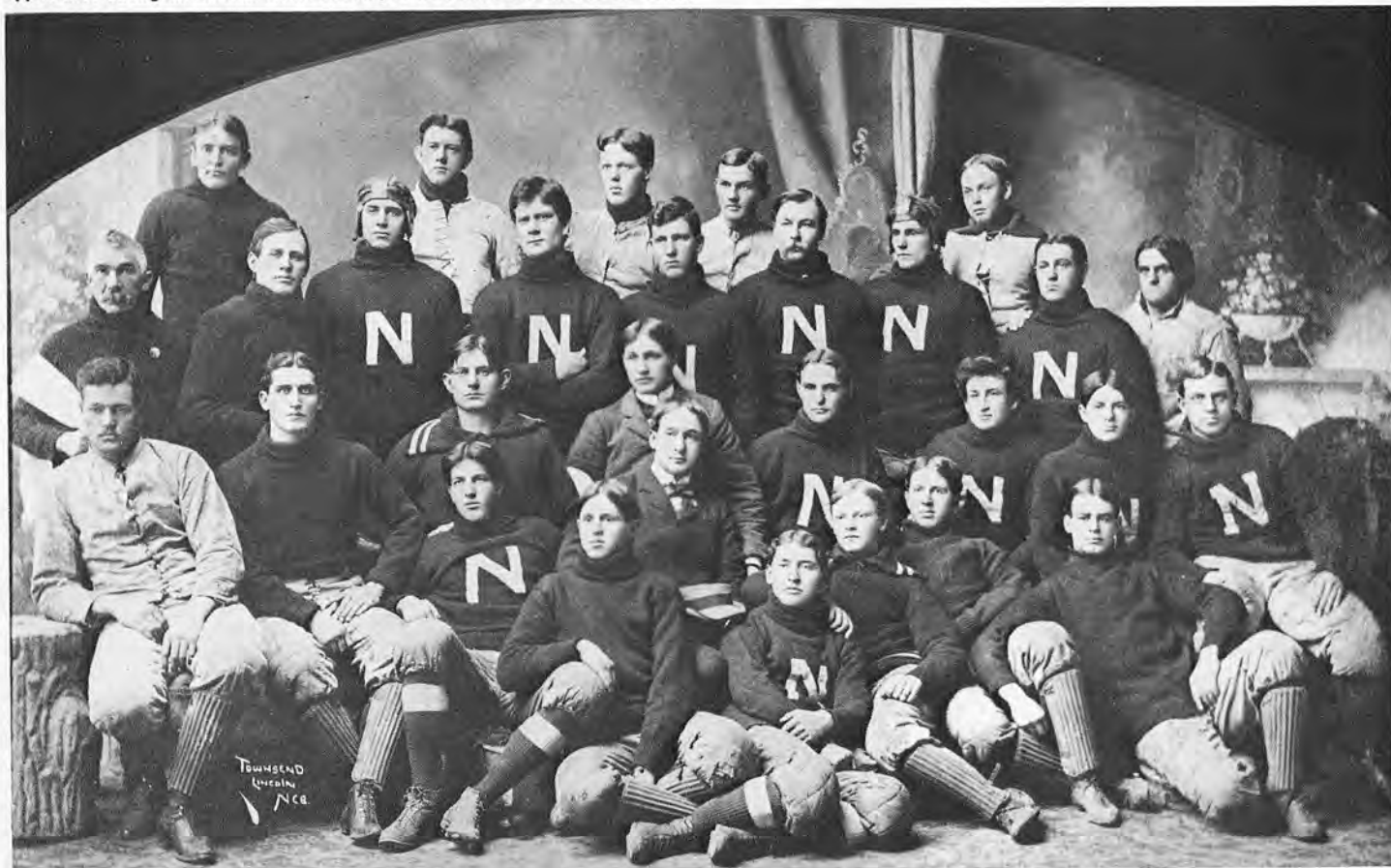
"And how many come out for football?"

"Oh, fifteen or twenty."

"Well," said Yost, "If that's all that want to play for the *varsity*, it's all right, y'know. But I'm interested in fitness for *all*. 'Athletics for all' — that's Meeshegan's motto now that Yost is 'ere.'"

Not only was it to be a motto at Michigan, it was to be a motto that the whole country would pick up and follow. His one short year at Nebraska may not have been a landmark in the school's history, but then, there are not many schools in the country that can lay claim to having Fielding Yost as head coach for only a year, much less a career. ★

The only Yost team at Nebraska. In those days heavy canvas pants, thick wool sweaters with padding sewn into the shoulders, and flimsy leather helmets were the protection the rough and ready boys of Nebraska used when they did battle on the gridiron. As one would expect, broken noses, gouges, and huge bruises highlighted a player's appearance during the season. Photo courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society.



UNITY THROUGH INDIVIDUAL EFFORT

by Mike Babcock

"Right now, 1980 is everything to me . . . 1980 might be the biggest challenge of my life."

(Scott Poehling)

Sure, Scott Poehling has the ego to be a world-class middle distance runner. There's no way he'd be thinking seriously about the 1980 Olympics without it.

The University of Nebraska junior has the drive for individual success, the instinct to win, that gives him that kick on the last lap of the 880-yard run or the anchor leg of the mile relay.

"Besides," he says, "finishing first is only about 50 per cent physical. The other half is determination, wanting to win more than your opponent."

But Poehling also has a theory about being a successful runner that includes more than just himself and his own singularity of vision. He's willing to subvert his ego for the good of the Nebraska track team . . . and that willingness makes the former Fremont Bergan prep star someone special.

"Track is an individual sport in a team atmosphere," he said. "I've always tried to be a team person in an individual context. The team is important. For the physical demands? No . . . that comes from you."

But you can inspire your teammates, and they can inspire you. A lot of athletes don't need team goals and team support, but I do," Poehling said. "I'd like to win a Big Eight indoor team title."

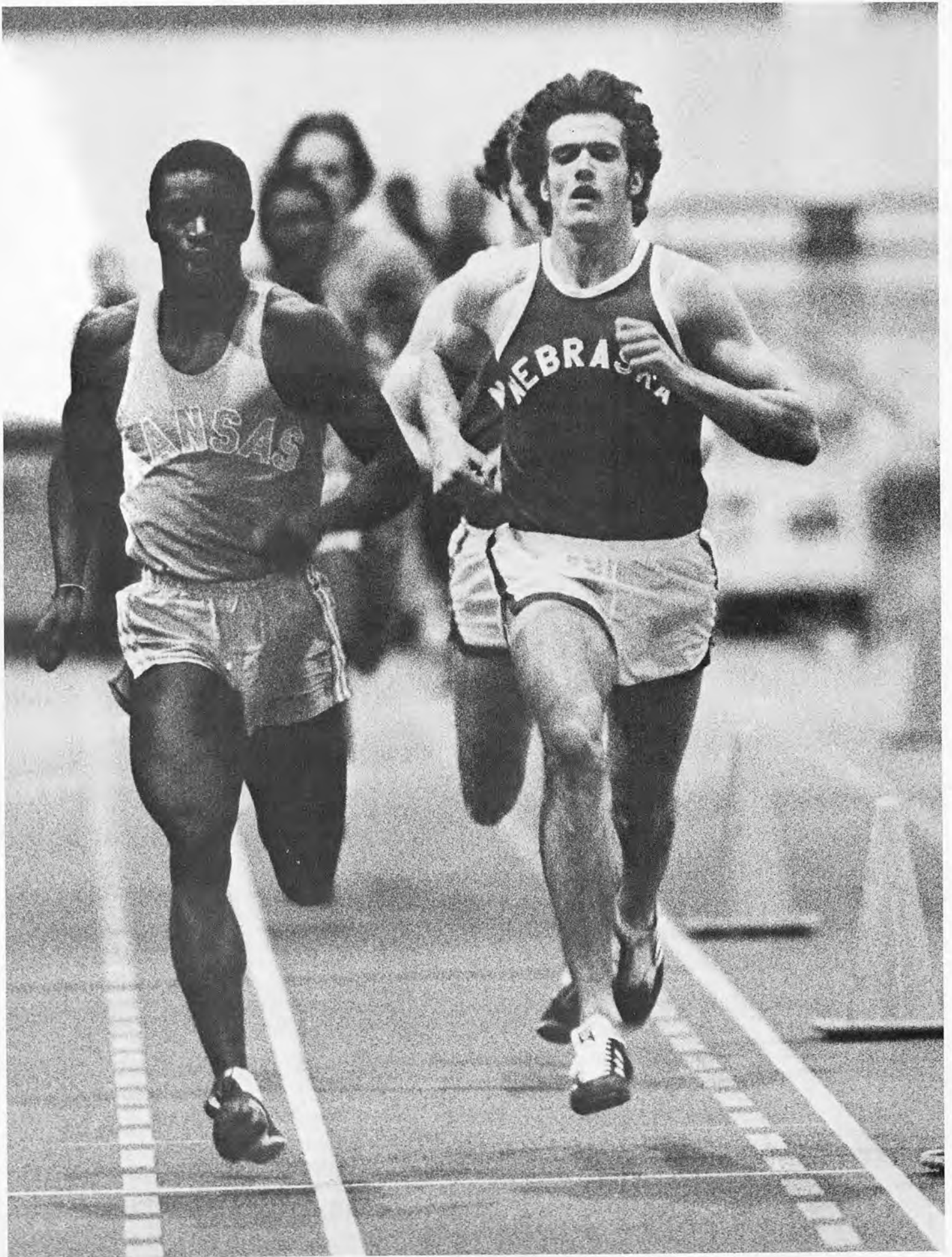
Last season, Poehling and the Cornhuskers finished second in the Big Eight

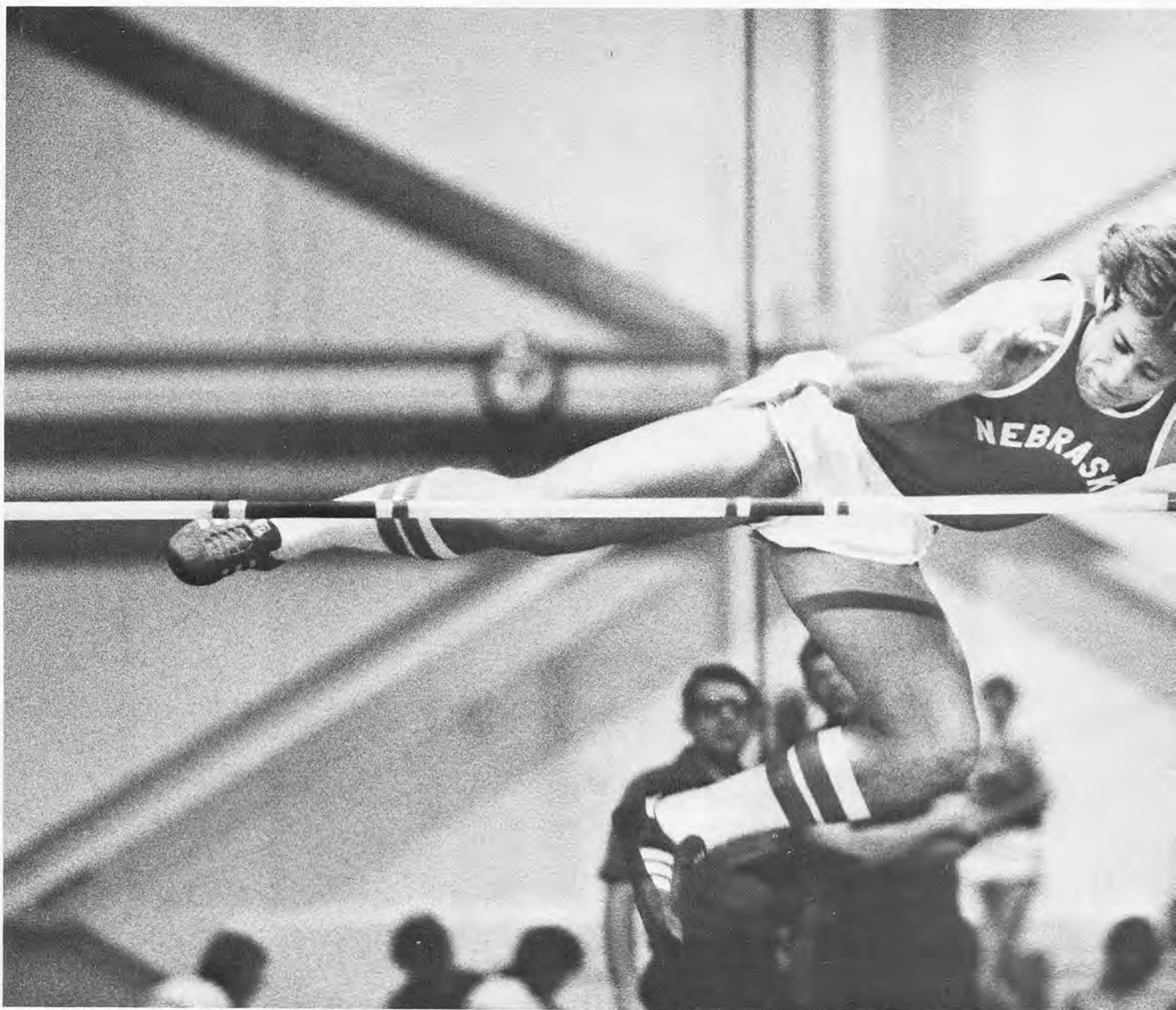
(continued)

One of the most highly recruited high school tracksters in Nebraska prep history, Randy Brooks is a sprinter who is very capable of scoring lots of points for the Huskers. Randy also runs the hurdles. (opposite page) Scott Poehling is Nebraska's biggest hope in the middle distances. He is the defending two-time outdoors 800 meter champion and the anchor leg on an indoor mile relay team that holds the Big Eight record

Photo by Ted Kirk







Even though Larry Meyer ranks behind Big Eight indoor and outdoor champion Doug Phelps, this young sophomore finished third in the Big Eight indoor meet as a freshman. Phelps, Meyer, and Doug Herzog combine to make the Husker leapers one of the most potent groups in the country.

Photo by Ted Kirk

indoor championships and fifth in the conference outdoor meet. Poehling finished second in the indoor 600-yard run and was part of the record-setting mile relay team. Two other members of that relay team — Jamaicans Ray Mahoney and Pat McKenzie — also return this season as do senior Doug Phelps and Lee Kunz.

Phelps won the Big Eight high jump, both indoors and outdoors. Kunz, who replaces his football jersey with track silks, was the discus champion. Mahoney won the outdoor 400-meter dash and Poehling was the conference outdoor 800 meters champion.

Though the depth might not be there to win an outdoor title, Poehling thinks his concept of team track could be the boost

Nebraska needs to win an indoor title this season.

"The difference between this year and last year is the attitude of the team . . . and you know how close we came last season," he said. "We might have been Big Eight champs, but we didn't work together."

"This year we're young, but we have two great co-captains," Poehling said. Mahoney and distance runner Mark Fluitt are the Cornhusker track captains.

Nebraska track coach Frank Sevigne thinks his team could win its first indoor title since back-to-back efforts in 1972 and 1973. "The possibility is there. We just need a wee bit of improvement from our veterans and some younger kids coming through,"

he said.

Those "younger kids" include sophomores like hurdler Randy Brooks, sprinter Everton DaCosta, pole vaulter Randy Raymond, and high jumper Larry Meyer, as well as freshman Bryan Ness, Todd Brown, and Phil Trent. Brown was the Nebraska high school champion on both the long jump and triple jump last spring; Trent is a three-time New Mexico prep 100-yard dash champion.

"Like any good track team, we've got the blue-chippers, but we need the second and third places. That's where we fell down in the (Big Eight) outdoor last year," Savigne said. "We had as many firsts as anybody."

The situation should only get better this

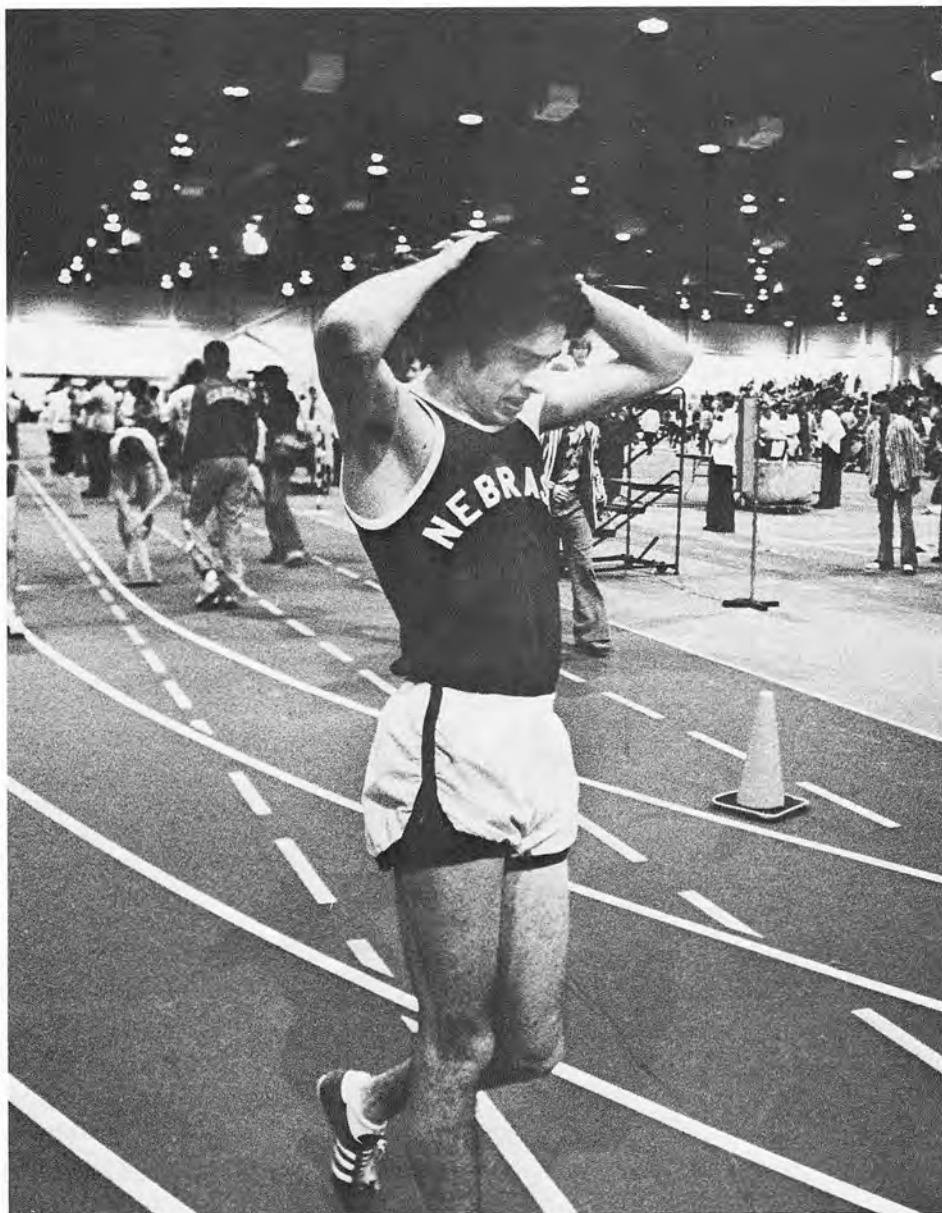


Photo by Ted Kirk

(Above) Senior Mark Fluitt gave an outstanding performance in the Big Eight indoor meet last year. He had a fifth in the 1000-yard run and a fourth in the mile. Mark will give added depth to the Husker distance tracksters. (Below) One year shy of a quarter century at Nebraska, head track coach Frank Sevigne is looking for another strong season for the Huskers. Known throughout the world for his excellence, Sevigne attracts talent not only from all over the nation, but from foreign countries too.



year in Poehling's analysis if the Cornhuskers' growing team spirit is accurate. Sure, he's planning for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. And sure, that's an individual goal. He knows his teammates can't help him across the finish line ahead of international competition.

"But you've got to run and work with these guys day-in and day-out," Poehling said. "I suppose you could look at it in two ways, but I think the team concept is important in track . . . unity, that's the thing. They're not going to help you across the finish line, but that team is going to help you achieve your goals mentally."

And according to Scott Poehling, that's at least 50 per cent of any race. ★

TRACK STATS

1978 INDOOR RESULTS

Jan. 28	Nebraska 85, Kansas 55	Lincoln
Feb. 4	Nebraska 96, Arkansas 42, Drake 32	Lincoln
Feb. 11	Husker Invitational*	Lincoln
Feb. 18	Nebraska 95.5, Wichita State 47.5, Colorado State 30	Lincoln
Feb. 25-26	Big 8 Indoor, Second Place	Lincoln

1978 OUTDOOR RESULTS

Mar. 24	Nebraska 69, Arkansas 61	Fayetteville, AR
Apr. 8	Iowa State Open*	Ames, IA
Apr. 15	Nebraska 108, Iowa St. 46	Lincoln
Apr. 22	UTEP Invitational, Second Place	El Paso, TX
May 12	Nebraska 92, Missouri 62	Lincoln
May 19-20	Big 8 Outdoor, Fifth Place	Norman, OK

*No team score kept.

1978 BIG 8 INDOOR MEET

Kansas	93.6
Nebraska	87.2
Missouri	82.6
Oklahoma	77
Kansas State	64
Colorado	34
Iowa State	31.6
Oklahoma State	24

TOP HUSKER FINISHERS

60-Yard Low Hurdles —Jeff Lee, 4th, :07.1
60-Yard High Hurdles —Jeff Lee, 2nd, :07.23
60-Yard Dash —Everad Samuels, 4th, :06.44
300-Yard Dash —Ron Hoagland, 3rd, :30.81
440-Yard Dash —Pat McKenzie, 4th, :48.40; Ray Mahoney, 5th, :48.57
600-Yard Run —Scott Poehling, 2nd, 1:10.28
1000-Yard Run —Mark Fluiitt, 5th, 2:12.15

Mile Run—Harold Stelzer, 2nd, 4:07.91; Mark Fluiitt, 4th, 4:08.87

Two Mile Run—Brian Dunnigan, 6th, 9:02.2

Mile Relay—Tom Dovel, Pat McKenzie, Ray Mahoney, Scott Poehling, 1st, 3:12.76 (Big 8 record)

Shot Put—Steve Millard, 4th, 54-10; Mike Dando, 6th, 52-11

Triple Jump—Neville Murray, 5th, 47-9½

High Jump—Doug Phelps, 1st, 6-11; Dean Herzog, 3rd, 6-9; Larry Meyers, 3rd, 6-9

Pole Vault—Dean Ross, 4th, 16-0

1978 BIG 8 OUTDOOR MEET

Oklahoma	109.5
Kansas	93
Missouri	79
Kansas State	78
Nebraska	66.5
Iowa State	66
Colorado	38
Oklahoma State	28

TOP HUSKER FINISHERS

110-Meter High Hurdles—Jeff Lee, 5th, 14.59

400-Meter Intermediate Hurdles—Everton DaCosta, 5th, :52.26

200-Meter Dash—Ron Hoagland, 6th, :21.32

400-Meter Dash—Ray Mahoney, 1st, :45.34

800-Meter Run—Scott Poehling, 1st, 1:48.28

3000-Meter Steeplechase—Steve Allen, 5th, 9:17.8

440-Yard Relay—Nebraska, 3rd, 41.31

Mile Relay—Tom Dovel, Ray Mahoney, Pat McKenzie, Scott Poehling, 2nd, 3:07.68

Discus—Lee Kunz, 1st, 192-8

High Jump—Doug Phelps, 1st, 7-1; Dean Herzog, 6th, 6-8

Triple Jump—Neville Murray, 6th, 49-0¾

Pole Vault—Dean Ross, 5th, 15-6

1979 NEBRASKA TRACK SCHEDULE

INDOOR

Jan. 27	NU 110.5, Nebraska Wesleyan 40.5, Doane 20	Lincoln
Feb. 3	NU 70, Kansas 61	Lincoln
Feb. 10	HUSKER INVITATIONAL Minnesota, Iowa State, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Air Force	Lincoln
Feb. 17	Colorado State—Wichita State	Lincoln
Feb. 24	Big 8 Indoor	Oklahoma City
Mar. 9-10	NCAA Indoor	Detroit, MI

OUTDOOR

Mar. 31	Northeast Louisiana Invitational	Monroe, LA
Apr. 7	Arizona State	Tempe, AZ
Apr. 14	Iowa State	Ames, IA
Apr. 21	El Paso Invitational	El Paso, TX
Apr. 27-28	Drake Relays	Des Moines, IA
May 5	Missouri	Columbia, MO
May 18-19	Big 8 Outdoor	Lincoln
May 31-June 2	NCAA Outdoor	Champaign, IL

1979 NCAA INDOOR QUALIFIERS

Scott Poehling (600, 880, mile ry., Two Mile ry., Distance md.), Mark Fluiitt (Mile ry., Two mile ry., Distance md.), Brian Dunnigan (Two mile ry., Distance md.), Ray Mahoney (Mile ry., Distance md.), Pat McKenzie (Mile ry.), Rand Brooks (60 Yd. HH, Mile ry.), Everton DaCosta (Mile ry.), Tim McCashland (Two mile ry.), Bryan Ness (Mile ry.).

BODY BY BOYD

The physical improvement of the Nebraska baseball team indicates the squad should have a strong showing this season. According to head coach John Sanders, "We're playing better people this year, but we are much better than a year ago at this time and should be very competitive." The Huskers travel to California March 17 for a week, prior to a Hawaii stay from March 22 to April 1.

"The players were hungry for strength training by October 14," said Sanders.

The competitive season last year ran from March 12 to May 12 with only a maintenance lifting program. In the summer, the players are to lift on their own; however, most of them play in summer baseball leagues and don't have the time or the facilities available.

When school starts in September, the baseball team scrimmages the surrounding

state colleges which gives the coaches an opportunity to evaluate personnel (similar to spring football). The baseball team did not begin their strength program until October 14. By December 14th, when they stopped for Christmas break, the team had taken on a new shape.

The Nebraska Baseball Strength Program produces strength without bulk by reducing the traditional rest interval between sets and between exercise stations. In eight weeks Mike Harlander, a 6'1" freshman pitcher, went from 145 lbs. on the bench press to 215 lbs., as his bodyweight jumped from 198 lbs. to 206 lbs. Mike Vojtesak, a 6' freshman pitcher, increased his bench press from 145 lbs. to 225 lbs., while his bodyweight went from 177 lbs. to 186 lbs. of solid muscle.

"Strength is confidence," continued Sanders. "Take Ray Tromba for example.

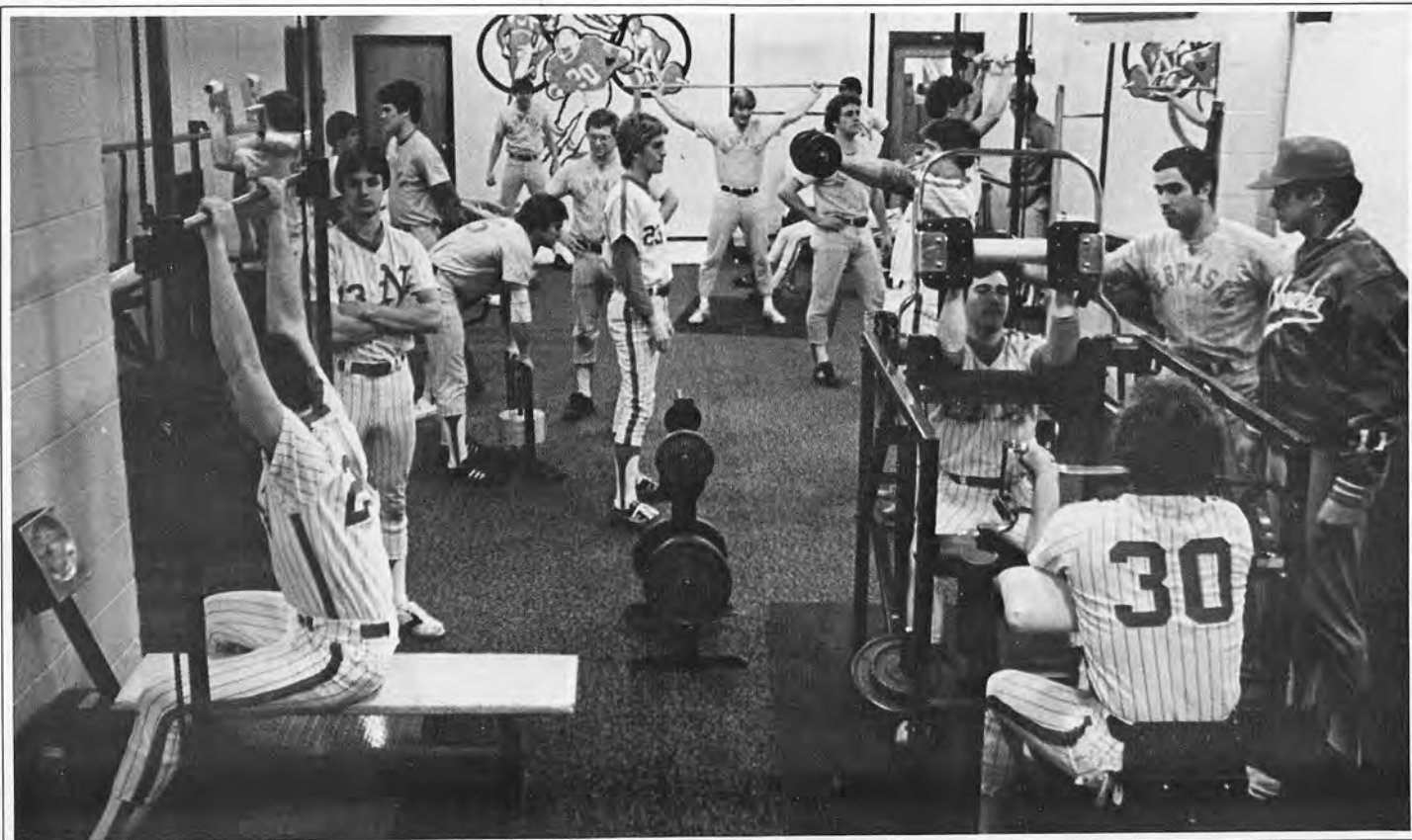
Ray is a junior pitcher who transferred here from UCLA. When Ray came here, he was very doubtful about strength training. Now he's a total believer.

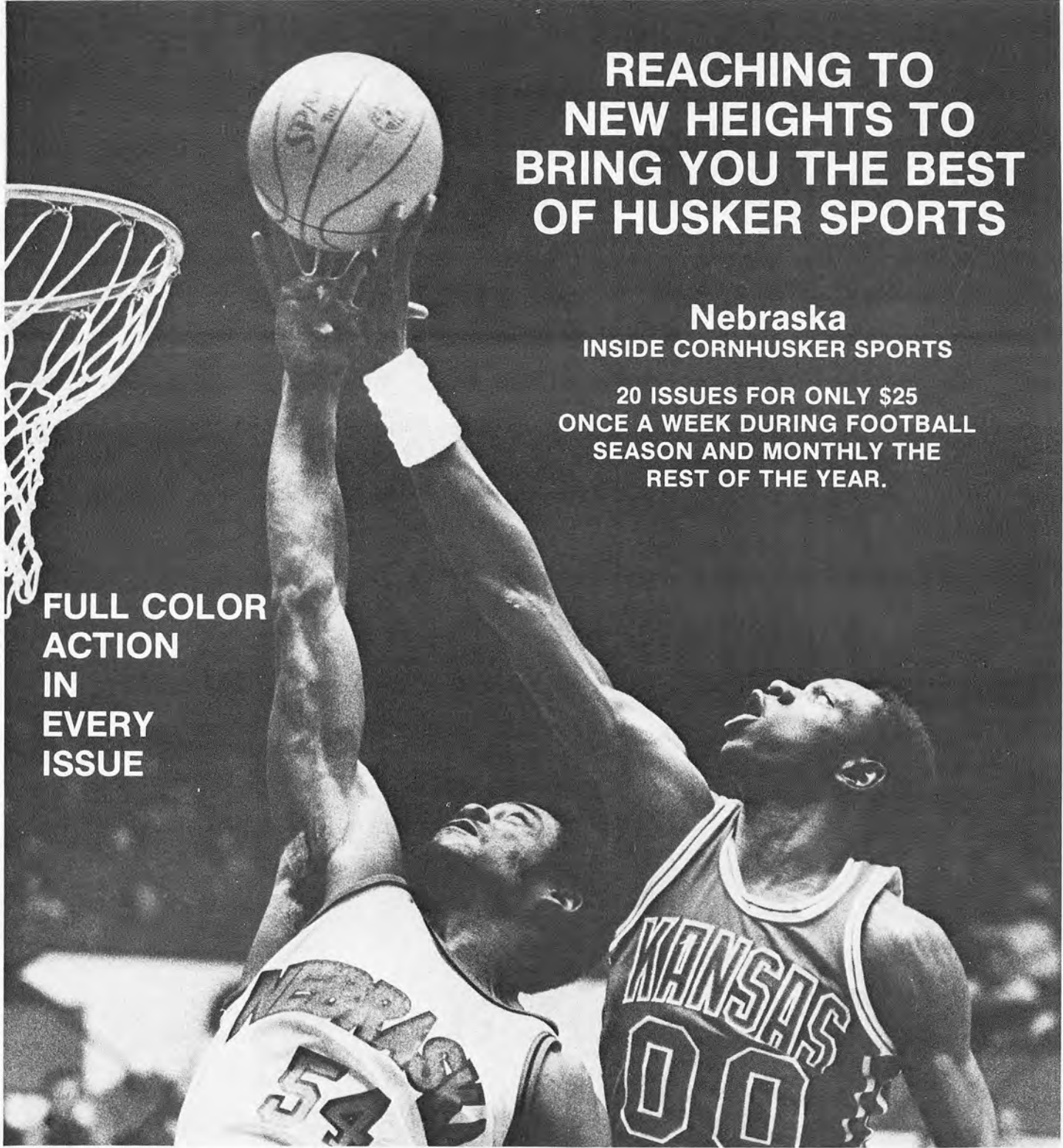
Another pitcher, Tim Burke, is also a member of the strength cult. A sophomore pitcher from Roncalli High School in Omaha, Burke said, "I really believe in strength training. I feel stronger and I'm more in command."

Burke, at 6-3, 190, had a bench press of 115 lbs., a 39" chest, 21" thighs and an 11" arm. He now carries 201 lbs., can bench press 195 lbs., has a 42½ chest, measures 24" around the thigh and throws much better with 14" arms.

"I'm very pleased with the physical progress of our team as a whole and especially the pitching staff," concluded Sanders. "Every player on our team has shown some physical improvement over last year." ★

"Strength is Confidence" is the battle cry for the Nebraska baseball team. The below photo shows the team working in the circuit weight room in preparation for the start of the spring season.





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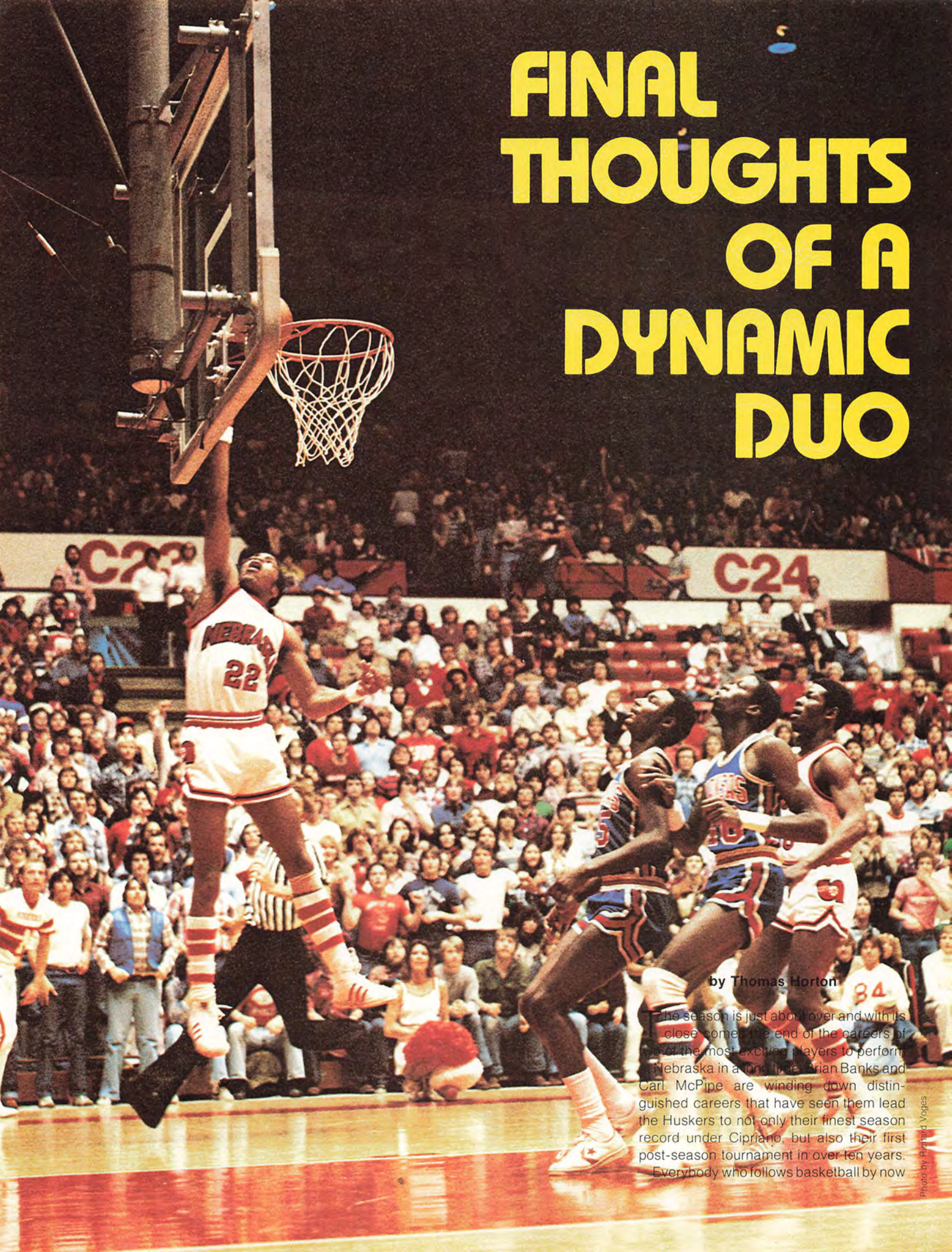
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FINAL THOUGHTS OF A DYNAMIC DUO



by Thomas Horton

The season is just about over and with its close comes the end of the careers of two of the most exciting players to perform for Nebraska in a long time. Brian Banks and Carl McPhee are winding down distinguished careers that have seen them lead the Huskers to not only their finest season record under Cipriano, but also their first post-season tournament in over ten years. Everybody who follows basketball by now



Too small to play center in the NBA, Carl McPipe will fit nicely into the league as a power forward. His strength and quickness will help him greatly at the forward position.

Photo by Ted Kirk

knows the story of the two talented players from Hammond, Indiana, who decided to come to Nebraska and play college ball together. The infamous "Hammond Hustlers" are now household words around the state, but few know the details of why they chose Nebraska.

"We played against each other in high school," Brian Banks remembers. "Each time we met we played before packed houses, but our team (Hammond High) usually won because we had five good players and Carl's team (Hammond Tech)

only had one — namely Carl. We went to elementary school together but chose different high schools because we were following in the footsteps of our brothers. Still, we were good friends and when the time for making a decision about college came around, I told Carl that Nebraska was a place with good opportunity."

Neither player was too interested in going to a college already rich in basketball tradition and national championships.

"We didn't want to go to a school where there was already a basketball program

established," soft-spoken Carl McPipe explains. "We wanted to build a tradition on our own. Why should we follow in somebody else's footsteps when we could come to a school and create a championship team on our own? This, as well as Brian's recommendation, was the main reason that I came to play basketball here."

After a 22-8 season last year, this season has been somewhat of a disappointment for Banks and McPipe. Being their final year, however, they have decided to quit thinking about early season problems and are going to concentrate on winning the Big Eight Championship.

"Everybody knows that with a record like ours, we won't get into the NCAA or NIT Tournaments unless we win our league," says Banks. We have to win the league and I think we are the best team in the league if we play as a team. We've got to hit the open man and get rid of the indecision during the game if we are going to do it. We've got the talent and the experience and I think we showed against Kansas that we are capable of playing with the best. Now we have to put it together. If we don't, then all our record is going to get us is a long summer."

Two top-notch players like Banks and McPipe have drawn the attention of professional scouts from all over the country. They see Banks' play-making abilities as well as his team leadership. In McPipe they see great quickness and jumping ability as well as strength under the boards. In their final weeks as collegiates, both players have thoughts on entering the professional ranks.

"If the opportunity comes, I will definitely take it," Banks relates. "I know, however, that my chances of making pro are not the greatest. If I don't play in the NBA, then maybe I will go and play in the European League. I want to play basketball, but if I don't make it, I have other things I can do."

Banks has expressed an interest in coaching if he doesn't play professionally, and this fits into his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education and Coaching. He does indicate that he wants to coach on the high school level because college coaching is "serious, serious business."

Carl McPipe is more apt to play professionally if the expressed interest of pro scouts is any indication of his potential. At 6-8, McPipe is too short to be an effective NBA center, but many teams are looking at him as a top prospect at power forward.

When asked his thoughts on graduation and professional basketball, Carl responded, "You start playing basketball when you are young and then you go to elementary school, then junior high school, and you just keep on playing. Pretty soon you end up in college and after all that

time you just want to go on and keep playing. It seems like the natural thing. It's a goal as you grow up. Basketball is the thing that you do best and you just want to keep on playing as long as you can.

"I would like to have another year at Nebraska — mainly because I like it here — but I think I'm ready to move on. I've talked to scouts and agents already and they are saying that power forward would be my spot. I don't mind that though, because I would rather play power forward any day. You get to do more things on the outside as well as under the boards. Besides, I think centers are stereotyped as rebounders and shot blockers and I don't like to be put into that mold.

"If I don't make it, or I only play a couple of seasons, then I want to go back to Hammond and be a teacher. My major is elementary education and I really want to go back home and share some of my experience with kids. Coaching doesn't interest me too much, I think I would rather just teach."

With Carl's size, one can see that he wouldn't have too many problems getting his pupils to follow his classroom instructions.

With the growth of the Hammond Hustlers, the team has not only broken old records and gained new respectability, but they have renewed fan support and interest in the Husker roundballers. New attendance records have been set as a result of this new interest, (though one cannot dispute the fact that the Devaney Sports Complex has had a great effect on both). Each player in his own way has made Husker indoor sports a great addition to the Lincoln sports scene. To feel the energy and excitement of a close game and then to see Banks or McPipe make a great shot or pull down a key rebound, somehow takes away some of the bitter cold and misery of a long winter.

"You know," says Banks, "just coming to Nebraska and playing college basketball is the highlight of my whole playing career. The fans are great and the facilities are excellent. The highest point in my career would come if we won a championship. I want to give that back to the fans because they have been so good to me."

Both players feel that this year in the Big Eight has really been an off-year for the conference as a whole. The final Big Eight pre-season Tournament didn't display the exciting brand of basketball that the holiday classic has had in recent years. All in all, the league is dominated by young players and balanced teams.

"The team that makes the least mistakes is going to win the Big Eight," says Banks. "We have the potential with our experience



Brian Banks has given the Husker roundball fans many thrills through his four years at Nebraska. The loss of the "Hammond Hustlers" will be a set back for Cipriano, though it looks like he has acquired some good new talent for the future.

Photo by Ted Kirk

to win this thing and we've committed ourselves to that goal. I know that's what Carl is thinking too. We came here to establish a tradition and we're planning to leave our mark before we go."

"We've got to stay with our fundamentals," McPipe adds. "If you play defense and stop your man, then scoring for your team will come. You must play using the best fundamentals you have — then you'll win ball games."

The season winds down to a close, careers end, and the Hammond Hustlers head out for new horizons. They want a

Big Eight Championship more than anything else. The Cornhuskers may not be the best team in the nation, but at least they want a berth in the NCAA Tournament so they can say they had a shot at playing the best.

"The season wears on you," McPipe muses. "If you're winning, it goes quickly. If you're losing, it is really long. It's kind of what you and your teammates make of it. We have the manpower to be the best in the Midwest. Now all we have to do is prove it. All the other things after college will come later. I want to fulfill the team goal now." ★



NEBRASKA

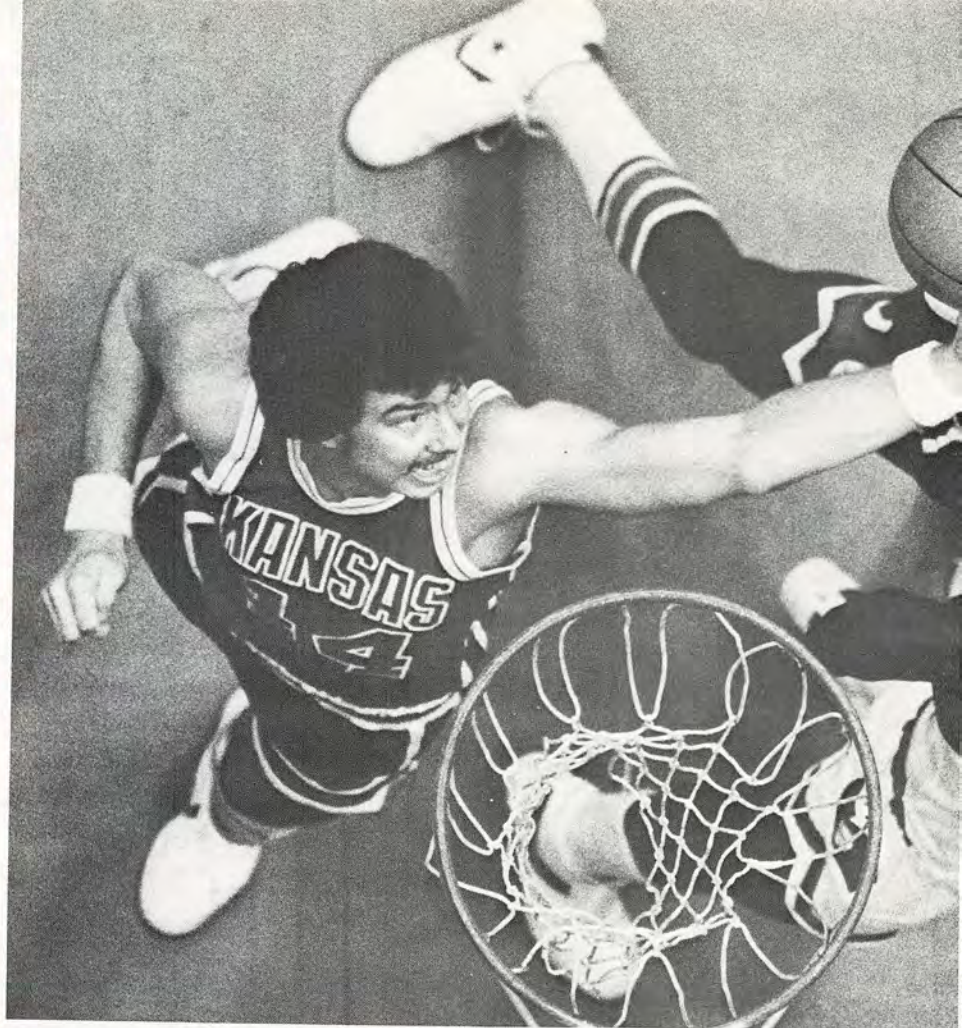


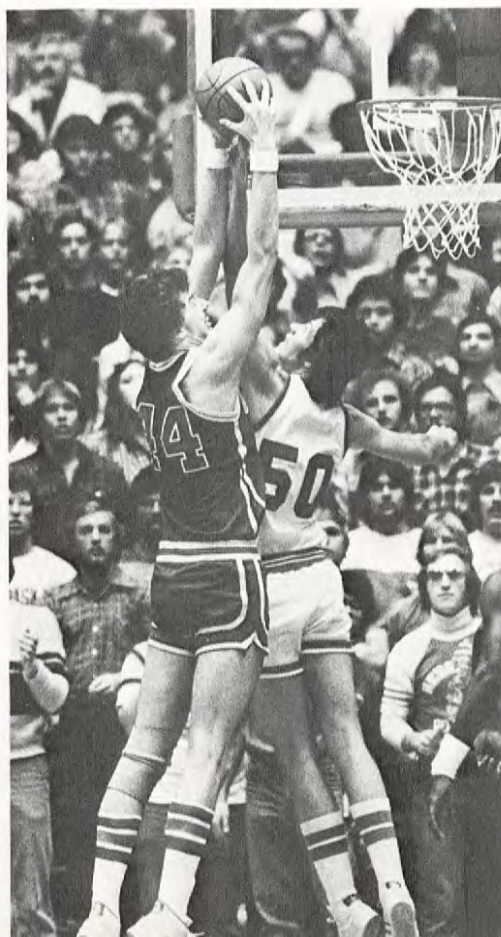
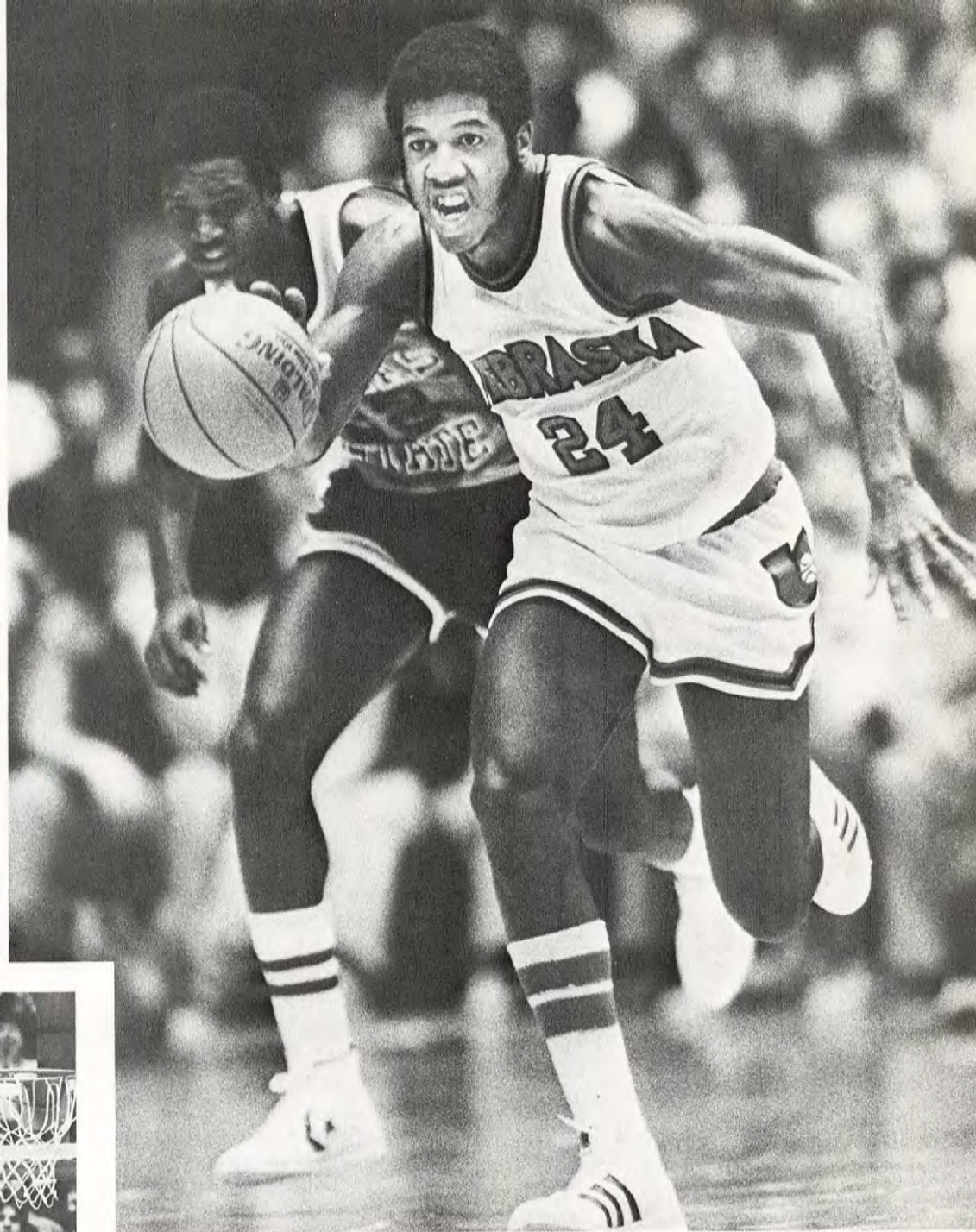
PHOTO ESSAY

Photos by Ted Kirk





CORNHUSKERS



January: Cruel and Kind For Husker Hoopsters

The start of the Big Eight season and leading up to the Oklahoma State game on January 31, has been both cruel and kind to the Huskers. It seems that a close win over a very tough team was always followed by a disheartening defeat to an inferior opponent the next game. Out of the seven games, all the Huskers could muster was a respectable 4-3 record for the month of January.

Even though the month did end with a disappointing loss to Oklahoma State, the first game in February was a grudge match return between the Buffaloes and the Huskers. This time, before the home crowd, the Big Red roundballers took the hide off the Buffs to the tune of 79-52.

The month was good, better was expected in the pre-season, but then February is always a shorter month and then it's March — and that's tournament time.

Andre Smith pulls down one of his 7 rebounds against Colorado this year. He also had 15 points in the game as the Huskers won, 79-52.





January Results

NEBRASKA 72, IOWA STATE 68

B. Moore 9, Smith 14, McPipe 17,
Naderer 6, Myrthil 12, Hedberg 9.
Assists — NU 15, ISU 12.
Turnovers — NU 21, ISU 21.
Halftime — NU 39, ISU 31.
Attendance — 7,100.

COLORADO 64, NEBRASKA 61

B. Moore 16, Smith 17, McPipe 17,
Banks 6.
Turnovers — CU 13, NU 11.
Halftime — CU 29, NU 28.
Attendance — 4,000.

NEBRASKA 55, KANSAS STATE 53

B. Moore 8, Smith 10, McPipe 10,
Naderer 10, Banks 3, Myrthil 10,
Hedberg 4.
Assists — NU 13, KSU 11.
Turnovers — KSU 18, NU 11.
Halftime — NU 24, KSU 14.
Attendance — 11,286.

MISSOURI 76, NEBRASKA 61

B. Moore 11, Smith 12, McPipe 23,
Banks 4, Myrthil 4, Shoecraft 4.
Turnovers — NU 15, MU 17.
Halftime — MU 37, NU 29.
Attendance — 8,814.

NEBRASKA 74, OKLAHOMA 56

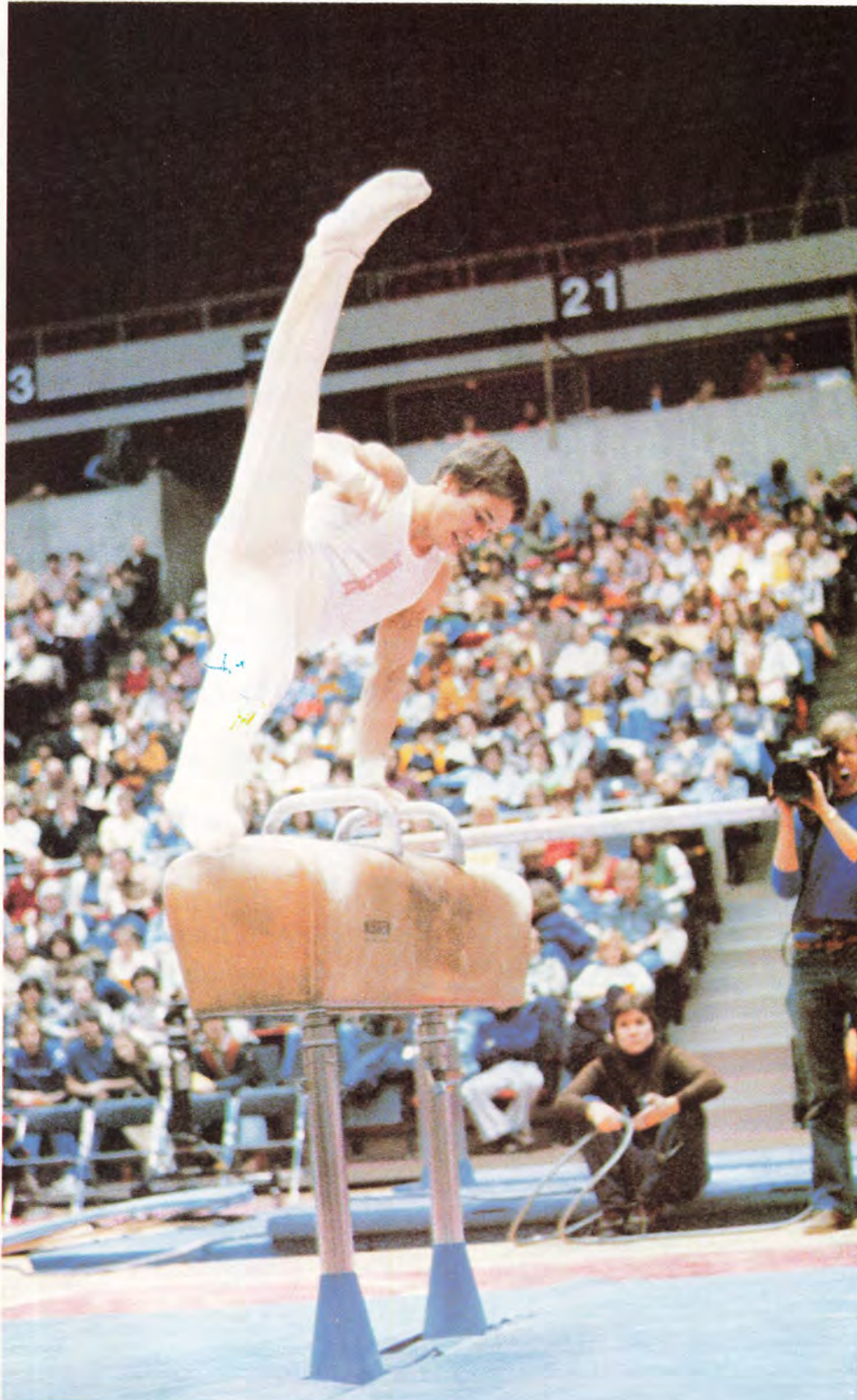
B. Moore 11, Smith 14, McPipe 21,
Banks 9, Naderer 8, Myrthil 6,
McVicker 5.
Turnovers — OU 21, NU 18.
Halftime — NU 33, OU 31.
Attendance — 10,765.

NEBRASKA 66, KANSAS 64

B. Moore 10, Smith 15, McPipe 16,
Banks 15, Naderer 6, Myrthil 2,
Hedberg 2.
Turnovers — NU 11, KU 11.
Halftime — KU 35, NU 33.
Attendance — 11,273.

OKLAHOMA STATE 66, NEBRASKA 57

B. Moore 10, Smith 12, McPipe 8,
Banks 14, Naderer 6, Myrthil 5,
Hedberg 2.
Turnovers — NU 13, OSU 11.
Halftime — NU 24, OSU 24.
Attendance — 6,100.



Huskers Head-Off

by Rod Von Busch

With three of the top four men's gymnastics teams in the country meeting head-on in a triangular, there was more than casual attention focused on the competition in Hilton Coliseum on the Iowa State campus on January 27.

Nebraska, guided by coach Francis Allen, entered the meet rated first by the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches. Oklahoma, the two-time defending Big Eight and NCAA Champion, held the second spot while Iowa State was ranked fourth.

To the victors would go the spoils. Not only was the nation's number one ranking on the line, but the favorites role for the Big Eight Championships (March 8-9), the Midwest Regional Championships (March 23-24), and the NCAA Championships (April 3-5) would also be at stake.

The competition proved extremely keen in the mid-season showdown, but the Cornhuskers proved that the top spot in the country still belonged to them by scoring a narrow 220.90-219.95 triumph over talent-rich Oklahoma. Iowa State was third, but by no means were they outclassed.

(continued)

Larry Gerard, who finished second in the all-around in Ames, shows perfect form on the pommel horse. The senior from Lincoln came on strong at the end of the meet to edge out Oklahoma great Bart Connor.

Photo by Jim Percival



Midwest Power- houses In Round One

Freshman Jim Hartung and senior Larry Gerard, scoring 56.9 and 55.95 respectively, finished one-two in the all-around competition to pace the Huskers to their best performance of the season. Oklahoma Olympian Bart Connor placed fourth in the all-around while teammate Mike Wilson placed third.

After a slow start in the floor exercises, Nebraska swept first place in the final five events of the meet. Hartung captured the pommel horse, still rings, and parallel bars. Gerard and freshman Steve Elliott, on loan from the Nebraska swimming team where he competes as diver, won the high bar and vaulting events.

(continued)

Jim Hartung, the freshman from Omaha, dazzled the crowd on the pommel horse and in the vaulting. His performance in Ames gave him a first in the all-around and made him a definite contender for the nation's all-around championship at the NCAA finals in Baton Rouge.

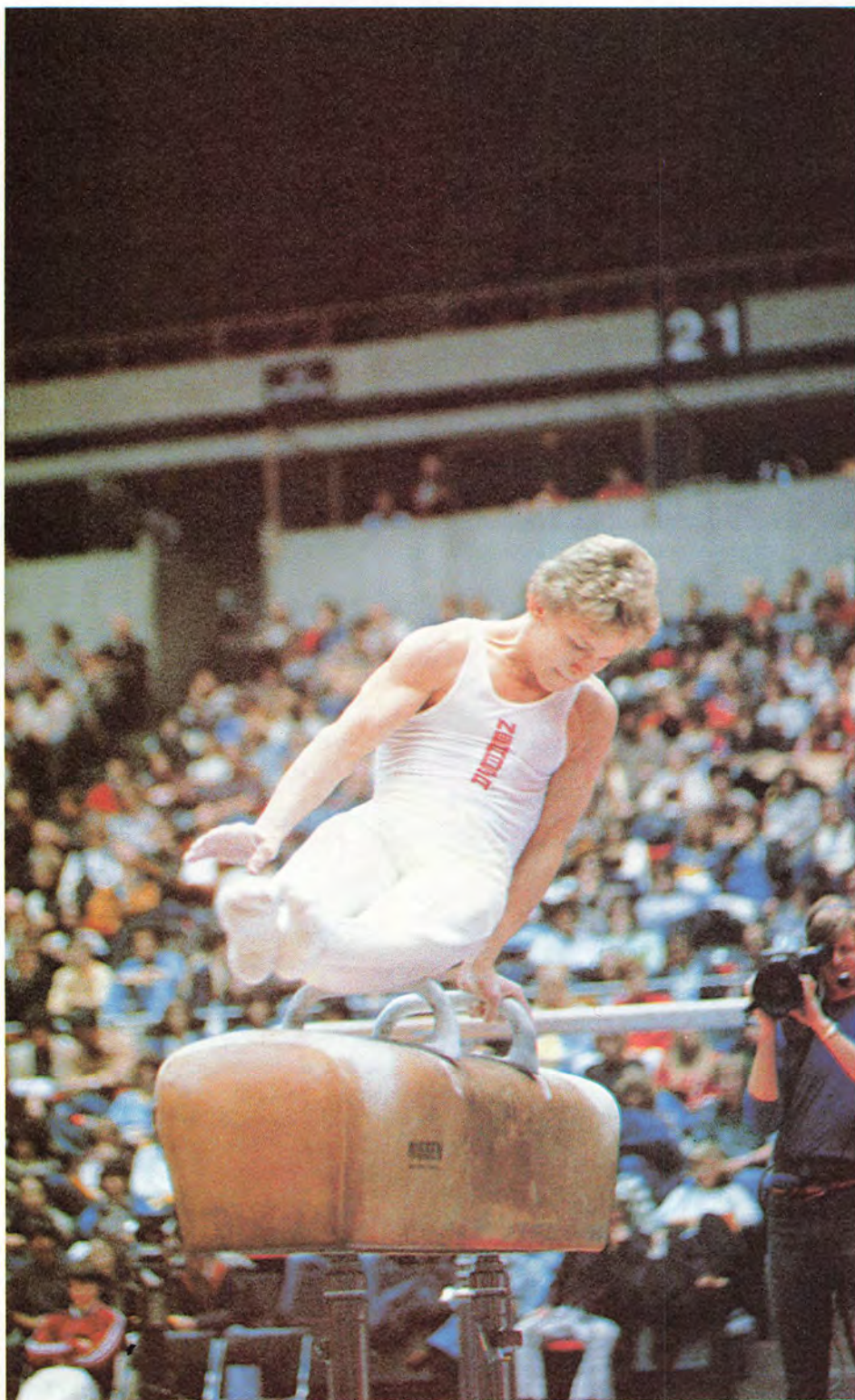


Photo by Jim Percival



Larry Gerard shows his tremendous strength on the rings. At the AAU championships last year, Larry scored a 9.60 to take first place in that event.

"I'm very pleased with the win," coach Allen said. "But, I'm disappointed that we didn't show better depth. If we can get our third and fourth guys to hit, we should have no problem scoring 224. We'll just create a snowball effect and that's when we build up a head of steam and knock a team out."

Allen's enthusiasm over the Husker's performance was matched by the crowd on hand at the meet. Although the expected crowd of 5,000 was cut to 4,000 by poor weather conditions, those showups were vocal in their approval of the quality of competition.

Several times during the meet, the noise level in Hilton Coliseum became a roar. The partisan Cyclone crowd reacted well to the performances of Iowa State gymnasts, but the biggest crowd reaction was registered over Nebraska's performance in the vaulting event.

The Huskers trailed both Iowa State and Oklahoma after the first two events. However, strong performances by Hartung and Gerard in the still rings, brought the Huskers to within striking distance of pacesetter Oklahoma going into the vaulting. Here,

Nebraska had its strongest single event performance in the school's history.

The Husker vaulters electrified the crowd with a 38.25 team score. Gerard, the third Nebraska vaulter up started it all off with a solid 9.4 score. Rich Brindisi followed with a 9.6 and then Elliott, finished the job of bringing the crowd to its feet.

Elliott, who has been called the closest thing to a motor genius by Allen, and who placed third in the 1978 World Tumbling Championships, completed a round off with a double full twist. The vault received a 9.75 score from the judges and won mass approval from the crowd as well.

Hartung scored a 9.5 in the vault to round out the Huskers' performance as Nebraska swept the first three places in the event.

"There was so much emotion surrounding this meet that it took us the first couple of events to get going," said Gerard, a fifth-year senior co-captain. "But when we got to the vault, just all of a sudden everyone was hitting and we knew we were going to win."

After the vaulting event the Huskers held a .7 point lead over Oklahoma and a full

three point bulge over Iowa State.

That lead dwindled to less than 1/2 of a point during the parallel bars event. Despite Hartung's first place finish in the event, Nebraska led by just 183.15 to Oklahoma's 182.7 as the teams moved to the high bar and the final event of the meet.

In the race for all-around honors, Hartung had all but decided the first place issue. However, second place remained unsettled. While Nebraska proved to out-distance Oklahoma for the team title early in the event, Gerard had to wait for his own performance, the last on the high bar and the last of the meet, to decide second place in the all-around.

Gerard watched as Wilson, who was in second place by .1 point, scored a 9.35 in the event. After four more gymnasts completed their routines, he mounted the bar and scored a 9.6 to edge Wilson for second in the all-around and Stacey Maloney of Iowa State for first in the high bar.

"I'm very impressed with Jim and Larry's performances," Allen said. "For them to beat two people (Connor and Wilson) who

placed first and third in the all-around at the NCAA meet last year who they had never beaten before, says a lot of their ability and determination. They set out to beat them when the season began and they got the job done."

Hartung was also happy with his all-around victory.

"I know Bart really didn't hit that well, but I did get a lot of satisfaction out of beating him," Hartung said. "I had the feeling he wouldn't be in top shape for this meet. I'm happy with the team's win. This meet proved we're for real and is going to make a difference in the rest of our meets."

While Nebraska team members congratulated each other on the victory, spokesmen for both of the opposing teams still had something to say about which team is the best in the nation.

"I know, still, that on a good day we can beat Nebraska," Connor said. "Nebraska just really looked good today. I guess it's like the old saying, you learn from your mistakes and we'll be ready to go next time."

Oklahoma coach Paul Ziert expressed a similar reaction to the meet.

"This was the best performance I've seen by Hartung and Gerard," Ziert said. "They just didn't make any mistakes. Bart was almost two full points off of his all-around score. We didn't come prepared to decide the Big Eight and NCAA titles and I don't think that this meet decided either. No competition is settled by one meet. This meet merely set Nebraska up as a challenger."

Although Iowa State finished two points behind the Husker's, Maloney expects his Iowa State teammates to continue as a contender for Big Eight and national honors.

"Nebraska's top individuals are better than ours', but our depth is solid," Maloney said. "It's just a matter of time and consistency. I know we're a good team and we have the talent."

Nebraska may have successfully defended its national ranking on this occasion, but with the season little more than half over, the three teams are assured of further meetings.

Round one was over and this time the Huskers hit their routines and scored the points necessary to win. Everybody in Ames knew that it would not be the last time these fine teams would meet. The Sooners were in Lincoln on February 16 for a big dual meet at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. All three teams will meet at least twice more at the Big Eight Conference Championships and at the Midwest Regionals before a 1979 NCAA Champion is crowned.

Rounds two, three, and four are yet to come. Who will answer the final bell when the best of the best meet in Baton Rouge for the finals in early April? ★



(Above) Steve Elliott was another crowd dazzler in the floor exercise at the Ames meet. Though only a preliminary meet to the regionals and nationals, this meeting of the top teams showed the awesome strength of the Big Eight in gymnastics. (Below) Another stellar performance was given by Chuck Chmelka on the pommel horse to give the Huskers needed points for the team title.



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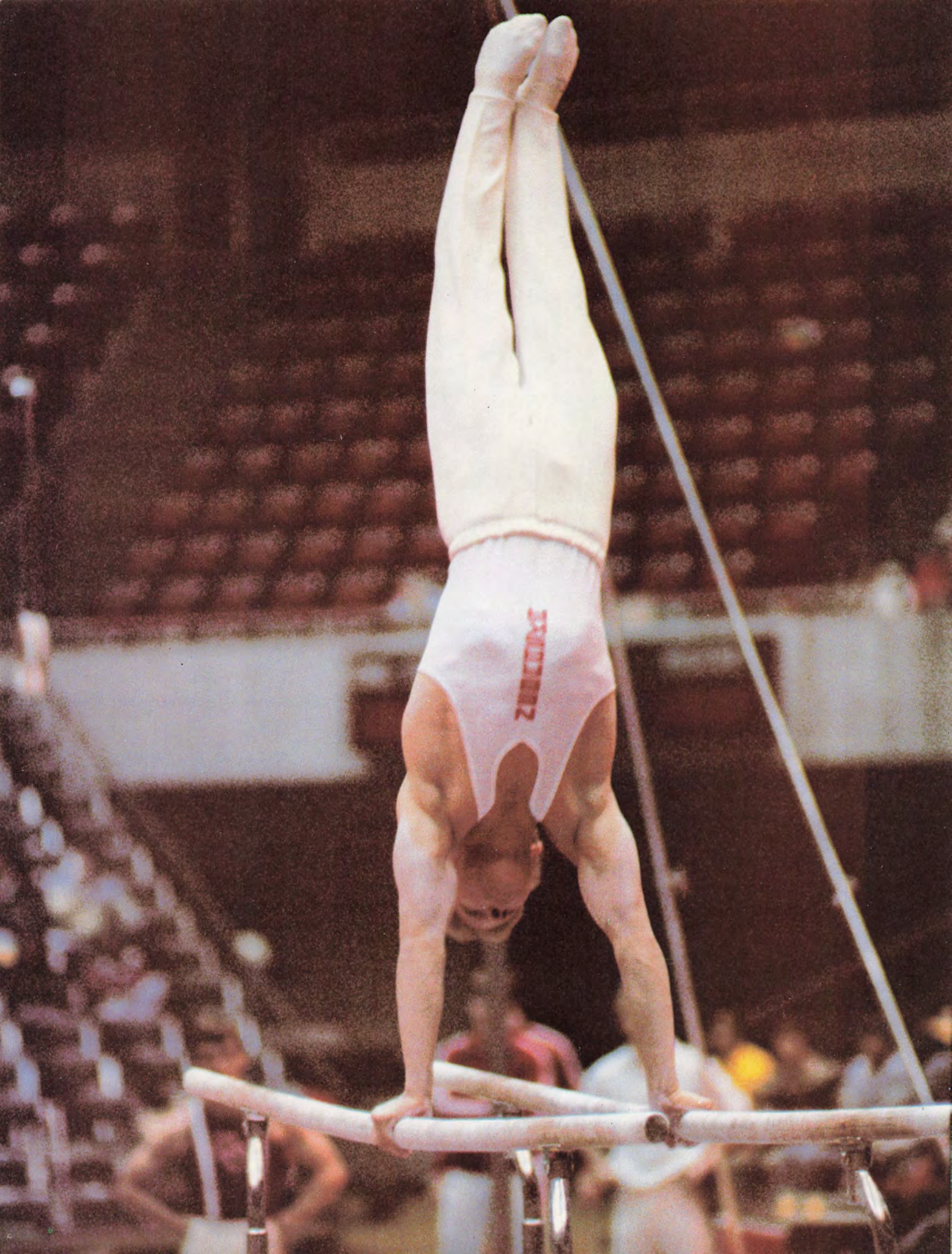
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Jim Hartung —

Making Waves Across the Nation

by Thomas Horton

South Africa, Hungary, Switzerland, France, Russia, New Zealand — the list is as diverse as it is distant, and for anyone, young or old, extensive travels of this sort would be quite an accomplishment for a lifetime. At 18, Nebraska gymnast Jim Hartung is not only a seasoned gymnast on the international circuit, but he is perhaps the best for his age that this country has ever seen.

Against all age groups he is impressive too. He is ranked behind Kurt Thomas of Southern Illinois and Bart Connor of Oklahoma as the best collegiate gymnast in the nation this season. Hartung, in a stunning performance in a triangular meet with Iowa State and Oklahoma, January 27th, thoroughly outclassed the older and more experienced Connor and led the Huskers to victory.

For Jim Hartung however, his victory over Connor was not a turning point in his career as a gymnast; it was just another stepping stone on his path to be the best in the country. He may be the best right now, but he lacks the experience and exposure to consistently draw high scores from the judges.

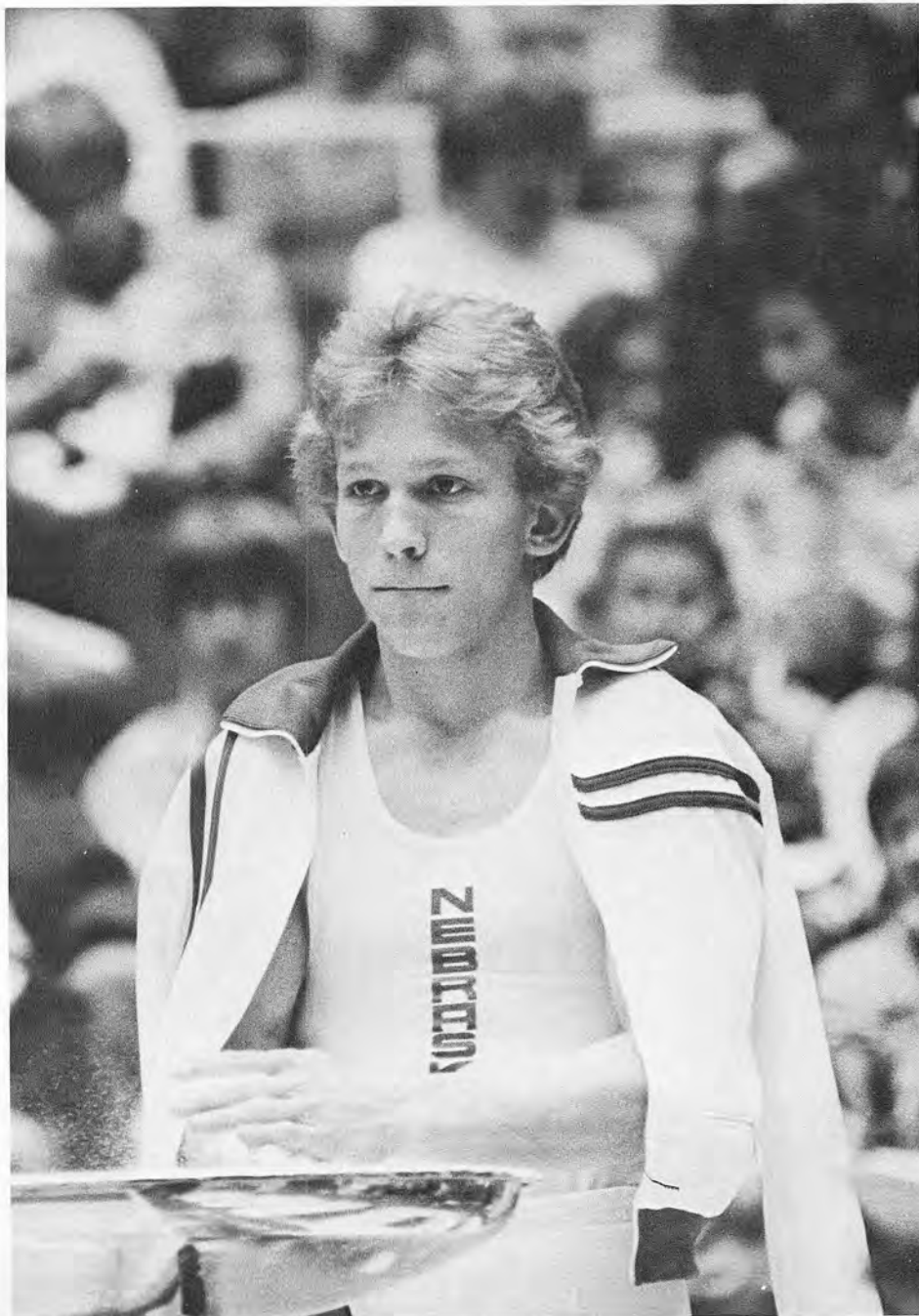
"Experience is an advantage because of your confidence level when performing," Jim explains. "Also, with experience you get a feel for what impresses the judges and makes them score you higher. Believe it or not, showmanship has a great deal to do with your score.

I've been on a lot of world tours, but I need more exposure in order to get the scores I deserve. At the World Games last fall there were six men on the U.S.A. team. I was about fourth or fifth, so that everytime an event would come around I would be the second

(continued)

The main goal for Jim is the 1980 Olympics at Moscow.

Photos by Steve Percival



or third team member to perform. Well, I might do exactly the same routine as our number one man, but I would score a 9.2 while he would score a 9.5. For exactly the same routine. The reason the number one man would score higher is that I would be pumping his score by going up before him. You see, if I did well and I was an unknown, then when the stars came up, they had to score better. Not because their routine was better or more perfectly performed, but because they had the exposure. The judges believed that they were better — so they scored better.

"I'm not griping about it though, because that is just the way it is. Besides, I'm just beginning to get enough exposure so that somebody younger than me will pump my score. I don't think the scoring system can be revised to take out these inconsistencies. The women tried it this year, but it turned out to be a disaster."

The world is beginning to take notice of the 18-year old from Omaha, however. Head gymnastics coach Francis Allen tells of being in London last year and having one of the Japanese national coaches coming up to him with nothing but high praise for Hartung. The Japanese coach didn't know at the time that Allen was to be Hartung's coach in the fall.

Why would the top-ranked high school gymnast in the country come to Nebraska when almost every major collegiate gymnastic power in the country sought him? Oklahoma, the reigning NCAA Champion, went after Jim like they go after running backs from Texas, and only territorial considerations and personal friendships kept him from heading to Norman.

"Oklahoma is a nice place and they have great coaches," says Jim. "But I liked the guys here better and besides, I'm only sixty miles away from home. The new facilities at NU are great. I go home every week or two, just for one night. How often I go home just depends on how often I have to do my laundry."

Home has always had a special meaning to Jim. It was there, at a very early age, that he was first exposed to tumbling and later gymnastics. Jim is not the only member of his family to do well in gymnastics. In fact, he comes from a family of well-respected gymnasts.

"Kids have to do something when they are young," Jim states. "Certain families do certain things, ours just chose gymnastics. When I was young, about five, my parents would take us down to the gym on tumbling

nights. This went on for a while — each week they would take us down there. Finally, one day they didn't have to take me down there any more. I started going on my own. Since then, it has consumed a big part of my life.

"My sister was a three-time Nebraska state champion and my brother was also very active in the sport, though he never pursued it like my sister and I. We're just sort of a gymnastics family. My father still tries to attend every meet he can."

After thirteen years of nearly continuous training, one might suspect that Jim would grow tired of the sport. In fact, he admits that there have been moments when he has grown tired of the daily stretching routines and exercises. But, he is very quick to add that he has a goal and barring injury he plans to pursue it until he succeeds.

"Right now I have my sights set on one thing, and that's the 1980 Olympics," Jim states. "There is a lot of time between now and the Olympics, but I'm going to focus all of my attention on reaching my goal. One of the reasons I want to go is that I feel that even though we can't beat the Japanese or the Russians (especially in the U.S.S.R.), we have a good chance of beating the East Germans and winning a bronze medal. We were close in the World Games last October. I think with continued work and improvement that we are going to surprise some people in Moscow."

The possibility of a career-ending injury is something that must always be considered in a sport of aerials, flips, and dismounts such as gymnastics. So far, however, Jim has been very lucky throughout his 13-year career. He has dislocated a finger and cut his hands, but so far he has escaped sustaining serious injury.

"I'm not going to say that I won't get hurt," Jim relates, "I just think it is more unlikely for me to get hurt seriously because I have

been around the sport for so long. Somebody who is newer to the sport might get hurt just because they don't know what they are doing and they lose control of their body. If you're trying a new trick it is very wise to use a spotting belt. A slip here or there and bad things can happen fast. It can happen to anybody."

In world competition, a gymnast is only competing against the other gymnasts on an all-around basis. The winner is the one who scores the most all-around points, not the one who scores the highest in any single event. For this reason, it is necessary for a gymnast of Jim's calibre to be very good at all the six events — floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vaulting, parallel bars, and high bar. Only by doing well in all six can he hope to be among the elite few who are world-class all-arounders.

Still, certain events come harder and are less desirable to practice than others and Jim's feelings towards some of them are no different.

"For me, the parallel bars and high bar are my most difficult events," he says. "I don't think they are the hardest events, but they give me the most difficulty. I try to spend more time on them, but then once you start spending too much time on one specific event, the others start to suffer. You have to keep the whole thing in perspective and balance if you are going to do consistently well in the all-around."

Jim's favorite event is the floor exercise. He says it's hard to get going on it because of the time involved in working the tightness out of his ankles, but once he gets going out on the mat, all early thoughts leave him. He also says he has a real preference for doing halftime shows at home basketball games. It gives him a chance to show his stuff before a large, and very appreciative crowd.

Unlike other sports at NU, the Husker



Finally managing a brief smile after the competition is over, Jim raises his hand to acknowledge the resounding applause of fans and fellow gymnasts.

gymnasts do not take part in Boyd Epley's special weight programs.

"I don't work on weights at all," Jim says. "They develop unnecessary muscles, bulk and weight. Extra muscle for the gymnast is not needed. In gymnastics, if you can lift your own body weight, then that is all you have to lift. Instead of moving barbells and iron around, we just move ourselves around and that is plenty. Believe me, I'm pretty tired after a long work-out or a long meet."

Competition is not a new thing to Jim Hartung, but the level at which he is competing is something that he is slowly coming to understand. One can progress to be the perfection of human athletic ability, but without mental strength and concentration, all the ability will go to waste.

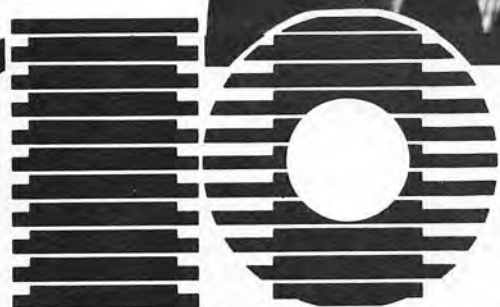
"My father taught me a lot about mental

concentration when I was young and it has stuck with me for a long time," Jim recalls. "He told me not to think about the crowd, or the judges, or the guy who was before me. He said to think just about what I was doing. The older I get, and the more talented my competition, I find that I must concentrate more and more to maintain my ranking in the country."

The best gymnasts have a mixture of difficulty, experience and showmanship in their routines. The more difficult the move the better chance to score high. Many gymnasts, like Kurt Thomas for example, have created their own moves. He didn't actually invent the move, but he was the first one to use it in international competition, so it bears his name — The Thomas Flare. The crowd pleasers do very well in

the scoring department too in modern day competition. Still, concentration is the key to success in the sport. Without it, all ones time and work are worth nothing.

The future looks bright for this very talented young man from Omaha who decided to stay in his home state and show not only the natives, but the world that the United States is an up-and-coming entity to be dealt with in international competition. The U.S. is still years away from being the best in the world, but with the help of young gymnasts like Jim Hartung, and the inspiration he will be to youngsters all around the country, one cannot help but think that the U.S.A. will succeed in its voyage towards international recognition and excellence. ★



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College All-Star Games... More Than Filling a Void

by Ken Kontor

College football has its serious moments, but it also has a lighter side as well.

For after every grueling grid season, hundreds of college football seniors have one or more opportunities to showcase their hard-earned skills for fun and profit in the several post-season all-star extravaganzas that are held throughout this country and Japan. Locations for these contests include such appealing and exotic sites as San Francisco (East-West Shrine), Honolulu (Hula Bowl), and Tokyo (Japan Bowl.)

Prior to this year, 208 players representing Nebraska have participated in these All-Star Classics. Although a January 1 appointment with Oklahoma precluded taking part in some of these games, the Cornhuskers still boasted eight players who saw action in the post New Year events in the East-West Shrine, Hula, Japan, and Challenge Bowls.

ALL-TIME HUSKER ALL STARS

*All American Bowl	19
Blue-Gray Game	11
Coaches' All American Game	27
*Challenge Bowl	4
Challenge Bowl (Seattle)	6
*College All Star Game	32
East-West Shrine Game	42
Hula Bowl	22
Japan Bowl	5
*North-South Shrine	4
Senior Bowl	36
*Discontinued	

Billy Todd watches from the sidelines of the Kingdom in Seattle, as his team tries to rally back and beat the Pac-Ten. This year, the rally fell short, but everybody involved still had a great time in the Northwest.

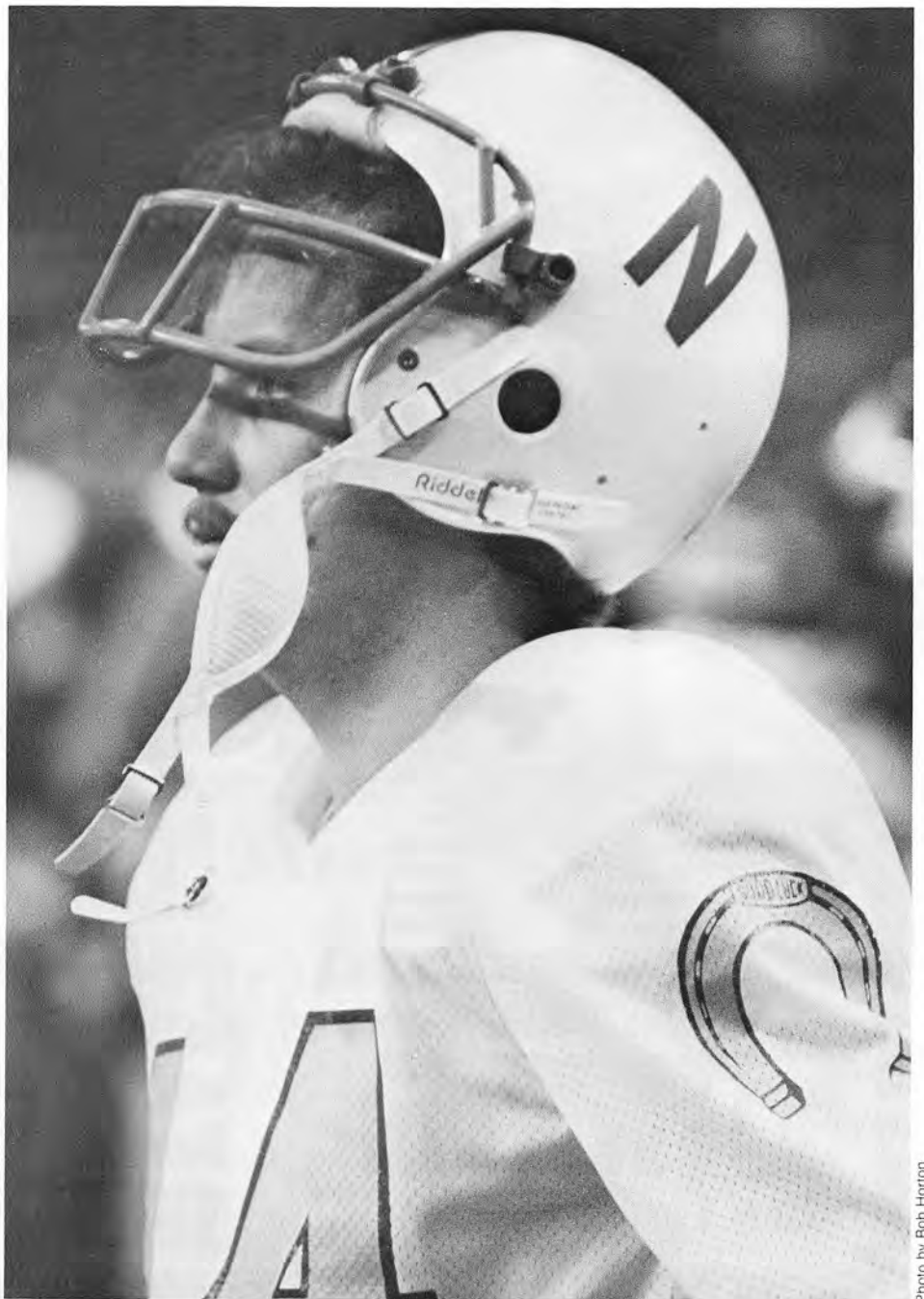


Photo by Bob Horton



(Above) Tom Sorley drops back to pass against a Pac-Ten rush that included 6-10 Jerry Wilkinson from Oregon State. (Below) Bruce Dunning, wearing number 38 instead of familiar 40, moves in to hit hard-running James Owens of UCLA at the Challenge Bowl.

Photos by Bob Horton

The Cornhusker All Star honor roll in 1979 included George Andrews, (Japan), Kelvin Clark (Challenge), Barney Cotton (East-West, Challenge), Bruce Dunning (Challenge), Jim Pillen (Challenge), Tom Sorley (Challenge), and Billy Todd (Challenge). Fullback Rick Berns, who was injured in the Orange Bowl, was unable to fulfill his playing obligations in the Hula and Japan Bowls, but still was allowed to reap the benefits of the trips.

To Berns, the games provided a different perspective. Despite being sidelined, the selection committees extended the courtesy of allowing him to make the trips anyway. While not playing prevented Berns from scoring any touchdowns on the field, he definitely scored some points on the home front. The journey to Hawaii and the Orient provided Rick with the chance to take his wife on a belated honeymoon trip, a well-deserved reward for her tolerance of the rigors of a demanding schedule while married to a Cornhusker gridder.

"It was really great to be able to attend those games," related Berns. "They treated us first class all the way."

The game of football encompassed new horizons for George Andrews. While the fans in the "Land of the Rising Sun" lack the



technical knowledge of the sports, they certainly compensate for this deficiency with their enthusiasm.

"They really appreciated the game, especially the big plays," said Andrews. "The crowds, despite a one side score of 33-14, cheered wildly throughout the afternoon and even applauded as both teams ran a victory lap around the stadium at the conclusion of the contest."

The Japan Bowl had its less serious moments also. For George, the occasion resulted in his fulfilling a life's dream — blocking an opponent's kick.

The scenario was set. The final curtain was ready to drop. On stage were Andrews and his counterpart and roomie during their Nipponese stay, Bill Dufek of Michigan.

After Dufek's team had just scored another touchdown late in the final quarter, both squads lined up for the extra point. As the ball was snapped, Dufek, displaying an Oscar winning performance, stepped aside to allow Andrews an unobstructed path to the kicker. George's dream suddenly became a reality as he smothered the kick in true Cornhusker style.

All Star games provide the ideal backdrop for making new friendships and the Challenge Bowl in Seattle was no exception. As the Pac-Ten All Stars were preparing to face their Big Eight rivals, linebacker Bruce Dunning probably expressed the atmosphere best.

"You play against these guys (Big Eight players) all during your career and you say

a few things that probably should have remained unsaid. But when you are playing on the same team and are pulling together for the same goal, you really get to know each other much better."

But the games can have a more intent flavor as well. In May of every year, the nation's biggest conglomerate, the National Football League, selects the top 336 players who meet very stringent physical and mental standards. The reality and possibility of playing in the NFL is on the mind of many players during these games. To Tom Sorley, a good performance in the Challenge Bowl meant a brighter prospect of being one of the chosen few this spring. "It is really beneficial for an athlete to appear in these games," he said. "I learned to set-up a little deeper and to throw to different types of receiver routes than I was accustomed to doing. This game gave me a chance to exhibit myself in a different manner from college ball."

Making the transition from college to the pro ranks can be a difficult one for even the most seasoned player. Kelvin Clark feels the experience of the Challenge Bowl will give him a head start when summer camp rolls around in July. The techniques are a little different, but Jim Hanifan (St. Louis Cardinal offensive line coach) is regarded as one of the best in the business and he taught me some things which will help," he said. "I really enjoyed this learning opportunity."

Added defensive back Jim Pillen, another Challenge Bowl participant, "When it comes down to basics, there is really no difference between college and professional coaching. It is the way they handle the players. As long as a player can perform to his capabilities on game day, that is all that matters to a coach. You can be as individual as you want as long as you do it game day."

According to Barney Cotton, an All Star game has another meaning. They are the rewards for a long season of hard work. "If you would have told me at the beginning of the year that I would play in two Bowl games, I would have laughed in your face," he said. "I was really surprised and thankful to have that opportunity and it was a very pleasant way to end a college career."

Rewarding, relaxing, friendships, and fun. These are the elements which make college football and in particular, college all-star games a unique and lasting experience. ★



Photo by Bob Horton

The hitting was hard and the outcome was serious, though everybody had a great time in Seattle. Barney Cotton did suffer a minor leg injury and had to be helped from the field. But it was nothing serious.

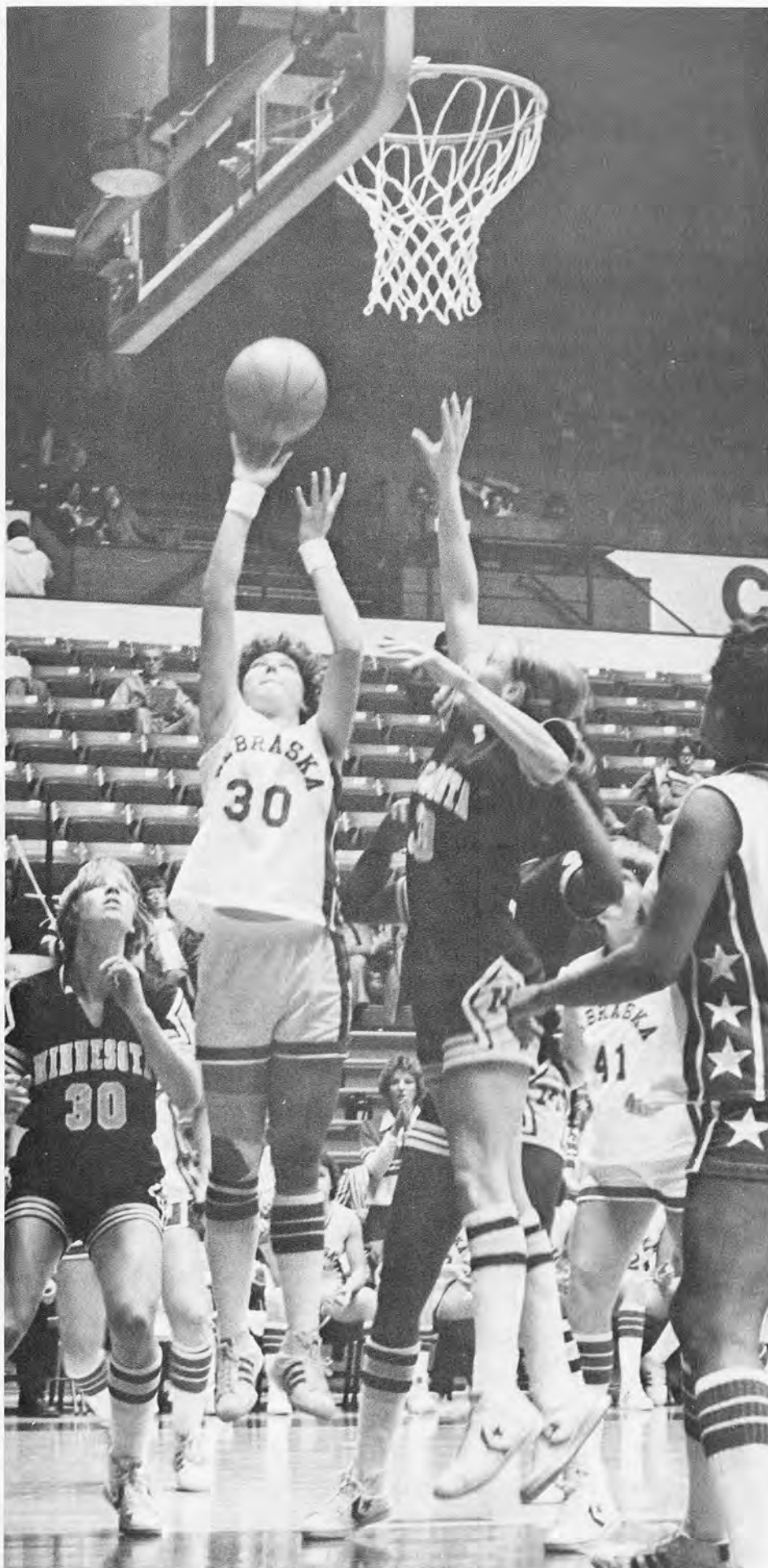
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Diane DelVigna ...

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

Diane DelVigna is the exception to the traditional story of many current women athletes. Instead of being influenced by an older brother in sports, Diane is the influencing factor in her family.

"I started going to the playground when I was four or five and there I got interested in basketball," said DelVigna, a small forward for the University of Nebraska's women's basketball team. "I have always had so much fun and learned so much from athletics, that I have encouraged my three younger brothers to participate in sports."

Much ado was made over Ann Meyers, and All-American at UCLA. She was the younger sister of UCLA men's star David and attributed much of her knowledge and skill to David's help. But DelVigna is turning the tables.

"I kind of set the athletic tradition in my family. I was in basketball, volleyball and softball in high school," she said. "I was really involved in sports. If I wasn't playing basketball or something, I was watching sports on television."

Watching basketball on TV has had a great influence on DelVigna's basketball progress. After high school, she decided that her free-throw shooting wasn't as good as it should be. So she took a look around her and saw that Rick Barry, formerly of the Golden State Warriors, was the leading free-throw shooter in the NBA with his underhand style of shooting. If it was good enough for him, it was for her, too.

"In high school I didn't have much power in my overhand and set shots. Because of that I didn't have much confidence out on the floor," she said. "Free-throws are a

Diane DelVigna goes up for a shot against Minnesota this year. Only a junior, Diane is now the leading Husker scorer of all time.

The Influencing Factor

matter of confidence and concentration. I just felt better, and performed better with the underhand shot, so I stayed with it."

Diane admits that she hears some giggles from the crowd when the lady Huskers are on the road and she displays her style. But when the 5-9 junior starts hitting from the charity stripe with regularity, the laughing stops.

"I have had women come up to me after a game and tell me that that's the way they shot free throws when they were playing basketball," DelVigna said.

This year, Diane has had to go back to basics with her free-throw shooting. After a slow start, the junior college transfer from Feather River College in Quincy, CA., has started to come around. Now, with more concentration and confidence, she is shooting a 58 percent clip from the foul line.

"At the beginning of the year, I felt like I couldn't hit the side of a barn, I really was forcing the shot and not working on it as much as I should have. Now it's coming back to me, but I am still working on it."

Diane DelVigna is the leading scorer for Nebraska, posting a 19.0 average in 26 games. The Huskers, now 18-9 after a narrow 72-63 loss to defending national champion UCLA, also look to DelVigna for assists. When she isn't hitting from the floor herself, she is passing to her teammates. Diane leads the team with 102 assists and also leads the team in steals with 76.

Diane credits much of her development as a roundballer to the fact that as a child, she spent all her free time playing basketball, and when she wasn't out there herself, she was watching a game on television.

"When I played with guys as a kid, they expected you to know what to do and they

wouldn't let you play if you didn't," she states. "They were only a few of the girls in my neighborhood who played basketball well enough to play with the guys.

My mom actually didn't want me to compete with the guys," DelVigna continued. "I think she thought it would make me a tomboy. But since there were some older girls who played, I guess that made it alright.

The playground was kind of like a family,"

Diane recalls. "One family in the neighborhood had 13 children, so they were a team by themselves in any sport, with some reserves," she jokes. "But there were lots of kids in the neighborhood, so we always had plenty of games to play."

All of those games led to DelVigna's three-sport participation in high school. When she graduated from high school, she knew the time had come to make a decision.

"In college sports, it's really hard to participate in two sports, so I knew I had to make a decision," Diane explained. "I had enjoyed volleyball, but basketball was the sport I really loved. I thought I had a chance to really excel in basketball.

I like to play softball a lot, but the basketball season runs into the softball season, so I would not get a chance to play for the university team," she said.

Now, DelVigna is concentrating on Nebraska basketball, and her concentration
(continued)



Closely guarded, Diane looks to hit the open person driving to the basket. She also leads the team in steals this season.



Getting the tipin off the rebound, Diane puts in two more points for the Huskers in game action two years ago. Diane feels that with the experience she has had as a Husker, as well as the coaching she has done at summer camps, that she would like to make a career out of athletics.



has paid off. During the recent win over Iowa State, Diane set a school single-season scoring record when she went over the mark of 453 points set by Jan Crouch in 1976-77. DeVigna is at 493 points with seven regular-season games to play. She has also tied the single game record of 29 points twice.

If the Huskers defeat state rival UN-Omaha in Lincoln on February 23, the NU team will travel to Minnesota for post-season play in the AIAW Region 6 Championships. If UNO wins that game and ties the regular season series with NU at one game each, a play-off will determine the regional contestant. That play-off will be in Lincoln on February 28.

The other thing Diane is concentrating on is her major — athletic training. After deciding that she wanted to do something with sports, there were many avenues open.

"I didn't really want to teach physical education, and when one of my coaches was talking about his athletic training background, I decided that that would be the best route for me to take," she said. "Last summer I worked in some basketball camps with coach Lorrie Gallagher and got a lot of confidence about my coaching ability.

I never thought I would want to coach, but after last summer, I think that it might be fun. I'll be working in camps again this summer and then maybe I'll get a better idea about coaching."

With the type of career that Diane DeVigna has had as a Husker, one would guess that if she can transmit her talents to others, inspire a team when it is down, and never be too young to try something the old way, then she will make one fine basketball coach someday. Her progress will be interesting to follow. ★

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MEN'S SCORECARD

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

GYMNASTICS—The Nebraska men's gymnastics team put its No. 1 ranking on the line at Iowa State when it met No. 2 Oklahoma and the host team, ranked No. 4. The Huskers came away with a solid win and a hold on the top ranking. The team scored a school record 220.9 points and collected the top two all-around spots as Jim Hartung and Larry Gerard took the top honors.

Gerard holds the school best in the all-around for the year with a 109.95 at the Rocky Mountain Open. Hartung scored a 109.7 at the same meet. Hartung holds the best marks in floor exercise (9.45) and the pommel horse (9.6). Gerard leads NU in the still rings (9.6) and the parallel bar (9.5). Steve Elliot, who also dives for the Husker swim team, leads the vaulting with a 9.8 and Mark Williams leads the high bar with a 9.7 mark. (See related stories inside.)

INDOOR TRACK—Frank Sevine's thinclads were slated to open their season with a dual against Southern Illinois, but the weather forced SIU to say in Illinois, forcing the Huskers into a triangular with Nebraska Wesleyan and Doane. The two state colleges were to have run a dual simultaneously with the Huskers but switched to the three-way meet. NU won the meet handily, with 110.5 while Wesleyan scored 40.5 and Doane 20. Mark Fluitt and Scott Poehling qualified for the NCAA nationals in the meet. Fluitt breezed to a 4:05.56 in the mile, which was also a school record. Poehling's 1:49.54 in the 880 was also a school mark, in addition to being a qualifying time.

SWIMMING—Divers Steve Elliot and Lance Green highlighted the Husker swimming performances when both qualified for the NCAA national meet in both the one and three-meter diving. Coach Cal Bentz' team won the Nebraska Invitational in mid-January and then went 2-2 in dual meets.

Nebraska defeated Southwest Missouri 65-46 but fell to conference foe Iowa State 68-45 and then Iowa, 76-35. The Huskers finished the month with a 67-46 win over Northern Iowa.

After a home meet against Missouri, the

Huskers hit the road with meets at Oklahoma, Drury College and Kansas. Nebraska will host the Big Eight swimming championships March 1-3 in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

WRESTLING—During a swing through Colorado, the NU wrestling team toppled Colorado State, 19-17 but fell to Colorado 25-12. During a fifth-place finish in the Colorado Invitational, 158-pounder Judd Norman gained second place as did Greg Palm in the 177-pound class. George Ramboir placed third in the heavyweight division.

In other action during January, Drake downed NU 24-16 and Michigan State tripped the Huskers 34-7. But Nebraska gained wins over South Dakota State (21-16), Notre Dame (37-8), and Purdue (33-11). ★



Scott Poehling is the Big Eight outdoor champ in the 800 meters. Already in the indoor season this year, Scott has set a school mark in the 880.



Mark Fluitt has qualified for the NCAA nationals with his school record time of 4:05.56 in the indoor mile.



Mark Williams is one of the keys to Nebraska's men's gymnastics success this season.



Diver Lance Green qualified for the NCAA national meet in both the one and three-meter diving.

WOMEN'S SCORECARD

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

BASKETBALL—The Nebraska women's basketball team highlighted a month of basketball with third place in the Big Eight Women's Basketball Championships at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Lorrie Gallagher's Lady Huskers opened the tournament with a 13-6 record after three straight wins on the road. After downing conference foes Oklahoma State (60-48) and Oklahoma (71-63) on the road and dispatching Northwest Missouri State (60-53), NU won its first-round game against the Sooners, 82-60. After losing to eventual champion Kansas (81-61), Nebraska evened the score with Kansas State 68-65. The Wildcats had defeated the Lady Huskers earlier in the season. Junior Diane DeVigna and sophomore Carol Garey were voted to the all-tournament Big Eight team.

After the Big Eight tournament, the Ne-

braska team faced one of its toughest games of the season. The Lady Huskers traveled to Omaha to meet UNO. Two regular-season victories over the Lady Mavericks will give Nebraska a berth in the AIAW Region 6 Basketball Tournament, the stepping stone to the collegiate national championship. DeVigna scored 23 points to boost Nebraska to a 59-49 win and a 1-0 lead in the series. UNO will visit the Lady Huskers on Feb. 24 at 5:15 p.m. in a preliminary game to the Husker men.

After stumbling at Central Missouri State (67-62), Nebraska went to Kansas City to face Wayne State in Kemper Arena. The Lady Huskers shellacked the Wayne State team, 95-42, in a prelim game to the Kansas City Kings and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

DeVigna scored 19 points against Iowa State in a 59-54 win over the Cyclones in Lincoln and became the Huskers' single season scoring record holder. The Oakland, CA, native is averaging 18.8 points a game and leads NU with 469 points after playing in 25 of the 26 games. She missed one game with a knee injury.

SWIMMING—The Husker women swimmers returned to action in January with three dual meet wins. NU defeated Iowa State (83-57) and St. Cloud State in duals at Beyer Hall in Ames, IA. The Huskers rewrote the facility's pool record book, breaking seven of the Beyer Hall records.

But the third victory was the one Husker coach Ray Huppert points to with pride. Nebraska defeated three-time and defending Big Eight champion Kansas, 83-57. The Jayhawk swimmers had not gone down to defeat at the hand of conference opponents in four years. NU set four school records on the way to its victory. JoDea Eckstrom, Melanie Jakob, Ellen Hollander and Rene Sullivan combined for a 4:07.07 clocking in the 400-yard medley relay. Jakob erased the mark in the 100-yard breaststroke with a 1:10.92 swim. Eckstrom set a new standard in the 200-yard butterfly with a 2:11.35 time and Hollander bettered her old mark in the 200-yard breaststroke with a 2:32.49 time. In all, the Lady Husker swimmers have broken six school records this year.

Following a final home meet against Missouri, the Lady Huskers will be on the road the rest of the season. After a strong invitational at Colorado State, NU will travel to Norman, OK, for the Big Eight

championships. The Region 6 meet will be in Grinnell, IA, followed by the nationals at the University of Pittsburgh.

GYMNASTICS—Judy Schalk's gymnasts opened the new year with a win over Wichita State (128.75-120.35) but fell to perennial power Southwest Missouri State, 132.75-128.75. However, the Husker gymnasts bounced back from the loss with the team championship of the Windy City Invite in Chicago.

Freshman Renee Reisdorff won the all-around with a 33.55 score. She also collected a win in the balance beam with an 8.25 mark, second in the floor exercise (8.65) and third in the vault (8.8). But Reisdorff wasn't the only Husker to collect laurels at the prestigious meet. Patty Carmichael took second in the all-around (33.30), won the floor exercise (8.70) and was second in vault (9.05), and Peggy Liddick completed Nebraska's sweep of the all-around with third place (32.15) and a win in the vault (9.1). Crissy Robertson added to the Nebraska sweep in the vault with a fourth-place 8.55.

The lady Huskers traveled to Colorado for the Big Eight Championships February 16th and 17th then return to Lincoln to host Colorado February 24 and Louisiana State March 2 in Devaney Sports Center.

INDOOR TRACK—Coach Carol Frost's track team made its debut with an impressive 71-42 win over Iowa State. The Cyclones are three-time and defending indoor and outdoor track champions.

In the win, two school records fell and the Huskers had two double winners. Freshman Sharon Burrill won the high jump with a school record 5-9 jump. She also collected first place in the long jump with a leap of 18-1 1/4. Freshman Carol Schenk blasted the old mark in the two-mile run with a time of 10:26.4 and a second-place behind ISU's Deb Vetter, the collegiate 1,500-meter national champion. Schenk's time cut off more than half a minute from the old record.

Cindy Tatum was Nebraska's other double winner. She placed first in the 60-yard dash (:07.2) and the 300-yard dash (:36.57).

Nebraska will have hosted the Big Eight indoor track championships Feb. 17-18 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. See Nebraska Magazine next month for exclusive photos and recap. ★



Crissy Robertson was another Husker who scored well in the Windy City Invite and helped the NU squad sweep the meet.



Freshman Renee Reisdorff won the all-around in the Windy City Invite in Chicago.

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